



## **THE WASHINGTON GROUP**

An Association of Ukrainian American Professionals

### **ANNUAL MEETING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1990**

**VAN NESS EAST PARTY ROOM  
2939 VAN NESS STREET, NW  
(Van Ness Station - Red Line)**

6:30 -Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvre

7:30 -Meeting, Election of Board of Directors/Auditing Committee

**VIDEO OF A ROCK CONCERT IN IVANO FRANKIVSK WILL BE SHOWN AFTER  
THE MEETING**

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors and Auditing Committee. Members seeking to serve on the Board of Directors or Auditing Committee, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

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**NATALIE SLUZAR - (703)573-6118**

TWG's General Store will be open during the Annual Meeting. You can purchase the latest records, tapes, books, magazines, video tapes, T-shirts.

For more information on the Annual Meeting call Natalie Sluzar (703)573-6118 (eve) or Lydia Chopivsky-Benson (202) 333-6693 (eve).

Україна 2000

Запрошує Українську Громаду  
Вашінгтону та Балтимору

на доповідь і зустріч  
яка відбудеться в

**неділу, 11 листопада, 1990р.**

в Катедрі Св. Андрія  
15000 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD

Доповідувачі:

**др. Юрій Спіженко**  
*Міністр Охорони Здоров'я України*

**др. Максим Драч**

**"Наслідки Чорнобиля і Проблеми Народного  
Здоров'я в Україні"**

Парафія Св. Андрія  
запрошує громаду на полуденок  
12:30 - год.

Доповідь  
1:15 - год.

дальші інформації: Надя МкКоннел 202-347-4264



October 1990  
Volume VI Number 12

**THE WASHINGTON GROUP**  
An Association of Ukrainian American Professionals

**TWG ANNUAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 30, 1990  
VAN NESS PARTY ROOM**

***A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE  
A REMARKABLE YEAR  
TWG LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
1990***

By Irene Jarosewich

It's that time of year again when you, as a conscientious TWG member, will take your membership responsibilities seriously and attend the annual membership meeting to discuss by-law changes, listen to reports, elect a new board and offer your considered opinion about the direction and activities of TWG. To make sitting through a meeting on a Friday night less painful for you, the TWG Board has arranged for a cocktail hour before the meeting, dinner afterwards and a short video by TWG member Marusia Drohobyt'ska, "Off the Beaten Stezhka" which will give you an opportunity to view village life in Ukraine today, as well as a rock concert in Ivano Frankivske. The meeting will be held at the Van Ness Party Room, 2939 Connecticut Ave NW (Red Line - Van Ness Station). Happy hour begins at 6:30, meeting at 7:30.

You may also be getting a call from one of our nominating committee members asking you to volunteer for

The Washington Group held its fourth TWG Leadership Conference, "Ukraine: Building the Future Together" in Washington DC, October 5-7, 1990. Fifteen speakers addressed an audience of 150 participants, and 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. The conference was organized into three 1/2 day sessions, Saturday and Sunday, with a Saturday lunch at which Vitaly Korotich, editor of the Soviet magazine *Ogonyok*, was the keynote speaker. The conference itinerary also included a Saturday evening gala, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian American Bar Association, with music by the Canadian band "Nove Pokolinya", as well as an informal brunch on Sunday and TWG's 6th Annual Birthday Party Friday evening.

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 the President and Deputy Press Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Ms Larysa Skoryk, People's Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR and a co-founder of Rukh; Mr. Curtis Struble, Deputy Director for Bilateral Relations, Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; and Ms Karen LaFollette, Research Assistant, Institute for Political Economy. Ms LaFollette spoke on behalf of Dr. Paul Craig Roberts, political economist and William E. Simon Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies who was scheduled for the panel, but was unable to attend. The panel moderator was the Honorable Bohdan A. Futey, Judge, U.S. Court of Claims and Chairman,

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# TWG NEWS

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## Trivia:

Last month's question "Who was First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR when Soviet forces re-occupied Western Ukraine in 1944?", was not correctly answered by anybody. What's with you guys?! I'm running it again.

## DON'T FORGET: TWG ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, November 30, 1990  
2939 Van Ness Street, NW



## editorial

### CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT CONFERENCE

We're always amazed that it works. Without a central office, and organized by people in their "spare" time, the hundreds of hours and hundreds of details nevertheless once again came together for a first-rate Leadership Conference.

The success of this year's Leadership Conference, as in the past, must be credited to the unfailing commitment of the Conference Committee. The committee was chaired by Oksana Dackiw who coordinated the efforts of committee members Nicholas Babiak, Yaro Bihun, Ross Chomiak, Laryssa Chopivsky, Lydia Chopivsky-Benson, Irene Jarosewicz, George Masiuk, Myron Maslowsky, Marta Pereyma, Isha Pryshlak, Orysia Pylyshenko, Natalie Sluzar, Daria Stec, Leon Turkevich, and Marta Zielyk. Thank you also to Marta Bohachevsky-Chomiak, Tania Chomiak, Roman Goy, Marika Jurach, Diana Kurylko, Martha Mostovych, Julia Romaniuk, Sophia Sluzar and Danusia Wasylkiwskyj for their moral support, excellent suggestions and timely efforts. A special thank you to Tamara Gallo for organizing the dozen-plus "day of conference" volunteers who provided a critical infusion of energy and support.

As with all other organizations in the Ukrainian community, TWG has been challenged to keep up with the pace of events. The ideas of the conference proposed in February were dated by May, those proposed in May had to be reconsidered by July. Throughout the planning of this conference, committee members were torn between their desire to remain open and flexible to new ideas and changes so that the information at the conference could be as current and useful as possible, and the practical necessity of getting the conference finalized. From the comments we received from participants, the right balance was struck.

Most of this issue is devoted to a report on the conference so that TWG members who did not attend can benefit from at least a summary of the tremendous amount of information that was presented. We return to our regularly scheduled programming next month.



## From Conference page 1

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.

### The Administration's Views

After introductory remarks by conference chairman 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 Mr. 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.

### Skoryk Responds

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 the imperial intent of the Soviet Union has not fundamentally changed. Mr. Gorbachev has no intention of reforming the Soviet Union into 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 can not 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.

Later, in response to Mr. Struble's comments about mutual goals, Ms Skoryk responded that she is not so sure that Gorbachev would be adverse to bloodshed. Systematic intimidation and provocation continues in Ukraine.

At present there are more Soviet tanks outside the perimeters of Kiev than there were during World War II. As for reducing tensions, the Soviet military "monster", chief instigator of those tensions, one that possess the capability of instigating again, still exists.

Ms Skoryk agrees with Yelena Bonner's assessment that until the Communist Party is dissolved, democracy 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.

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 to all efforts of democratic forces. Skoryk cited examples. In spite of "democratization" the March elections were not really free and open, the process was managed by the Communist Party to guarantee a Party majority in the Supreme Soviet, as well as at lower governmental levels. In spite of *glasnost* Party controlled coun

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cils in 4 large oblasts in Ukraine recently voted that no organizations, other than those of the Communist Party would be allowed on the territory of the oblast. Furthermore, almost all the media is still Party-controlled with little news coverage or programming not of benefit to Party interests. In spite of *perestroika* a two-tiered economic system continues to exist, one for the Party and then one for everyone else. Deficit items, including medicine intended for the victims of Chernobyl have been found in warehouses in Ukraine and Moldavia which store items for distribution to Party elite. In spite of promises of decentralization, the Communist Party bureaucracy, which is still entrenched in Ukraine, takes orders directly from Moscow. In particular, in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, the Party's "Gang of 239" delegates is stalling on implementing the conditions of the sovereignty declaration.

One of the most insidious examples of Party-controlled obstruction is the recent situation of the harvest. Ukraine had a bountiful harvest, however less than 20% 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. Later in a private discussion on this topic, Ms Skoryk further explained that hungry people can still be angry and demand change, but starving people only want food.

Ms Skoryk promised that Ukraine will not, cannot, give up. Ukraine has suffered immensely at the hands of the Soviet, and its antecedent the Russian, empire. Continued inclusion in the Soviet Union will mean continued destruction for Ukraine.

### The Kiev Consulate

Following Ms Skoryk's presentation, Mr. Struble spoke to 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, Nixon and Brezhnev agree to establish consulate in Kiev; 1976, U.S. advance team arrives; February, 1980, as a protest to the invasion of Afghanistan, U.S. expels Soviet consulars from U.S. and withdraws U.S. consulars from the USSR; 1985, process reinstated; 1986, process suspended until results of Chernobyl explosion are evaluated; January 1987, U.S. determines that no significant health risk exists, but process is again derailed because of security scandal at U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

At present, Mr. Struble says that he hopes "to have an official announcement about the opening of the consulate very

soon." One officer for the consulate has been named, John Stepanchyk, who is currently attached to 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.

### New Economics

The final panelist Saturday morning was Ms Karen LaFollette. Ms LaFollette spoke to 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 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.

### Korotich: Crisis at Hand

Vitaly 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 spoke to a variety of topics, nonetheless, he delivered one bottomline serious message: The Soviet Union is in crisis; at best it is 1-1 1/2 years from catastrophe. 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." 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 identified the task before the Soviet Union as the difference between fish soup and an aquarium. In order to make fish soup, just boil the water in the aquarium. However, the task at hand is to make an aquarium from fish soup, for which there is no recipe.

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 appealed to economic cooperation between the republics, stating that Russia is as poor as Ukraine and cited a Sidney Poitier movie to illustrate his point. A black man and a white man, who hate each other, are in prison together. However, in order to escape they must depend on each other. "In this way the republics must depend on each other and escape together."

He derided incremental economic changes, claiming that they make about as much sense as asking drivers in England to make an incremental switch from driving on the right side of the road to the left. Utter chaos would result. 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 wasn'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 Mr. Myron Wasylyk, Special Assistant for Legislation and Public Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State, the panel included Mr. Volodymyr Dibrova, U.S. correspondent of *Narodna Hazeta*, the Rukh newspaper published in Kiev; Mr. Mark E. Dillen, Director, Office of Press Relations, U.S. Department of State; Mr. Kevin Klose 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.

## *Narodna Hazeta*

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 still is no independent press. Furthermore, there still exists the popular perception that "newspapers, any newspapers, can not 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 can not compete with established mass media.

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 Zhitomyr prevented this development. Mr. Dibrova summarized the evolution of the press in the past few years as having undergone 4 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 on a new name and often adopted a new editorial style and content; and the current stage, the "Apolitical" - a phase in which publications are trying to write without rhetoric.

## Moscow Correspondents

Mr. Klose, former Moscow correspondent for the *Washington Post* considers the current availability of information within and about the Soviet Union to be beyond imagination. Correspondents can not keep up, much less ahead of a story. (The *Post* has two full-time correspondents in Moscow).

The possibility of access to numerous sources is still quite new. Until recently, people were jailed for contacts with Western press. Information came only from

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official sources. Correspondents were not allowed out of Moscow. Information about activities beyond Moscow was hard to obtain and almost impossible to confirm. Now correspondents are openly greeted at airports when they come to cover a story.

He considers Ukraine to be an extraordinary story and quoted *Post* correspondent David Remnick from a January, 1989 article: "in (the) Ukraine, resentment is slowly evolving into a movement." "And this observation has come true." When asked about the *Post's* persistent use of "the" when referring to Ukraine, Mr. Klose admitted that the usage is inconsistent, the policy needs to be reviewed and that he's sure that the Ukrainian community won't let the *Post* forget about it.

### Information Overload

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 benefitted 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.

### Community Impact

Robert 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. 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, Chornobyl, human rights, the Millennium as government rela-

tions activities where the community united, it wasn't until Ukrainians from Ukraine started coming to Washington and telling their story that old stereotypes began to fall. 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 4 days, 3 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 terrible 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; Mr. Yuli Wexler, Manager, Corporate Development, MCI Communications; Ms 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 3rd World Congress of Ukrainian Medical Associations which met in Kiev in August.

### Environmental Update

Dr. David McClave began his presentation "Silent Spring in Full Bloom: Ukraine in an Environmental Crisis" with the comment "In 1962 Rachel Carson's best-selling book *Silent Spring* was instrumental in launching our environmental movement...Her nightmare was that man might re-engineer nature's most wondrous season, and in the process make it silent. With a sense of sadness and horror, we now see that a kind of "silent spring" has settled over much of the land between the Elbe River and the Urals. All along we knew that people were grossly



abused behind the Iron Curtain. Only now have we begun to appreciate the extent and efficiency of that system's predatory approach to nature and the environment."

Dr. McClave continued 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 Chornobyl 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 twenty economic regions in the Soviet Union, the Donetsk-Dnipropetrovsk region registered the worst on indices of overall environmental degradation. The twelve 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 Dneister 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% of the USSR's territory, over 18% of the Soviet Union's toxic emissions were emitted over Ukraine.

Dr. McClave then offered some hope. More than any other single event, the explosion of Chornobyl 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% 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.

Dr. McClave concluded his presentation with this thought: "I suspect that this conference of The Washington Group is like no other in its history, or for that matter, in the history of the Ukrainian-American community. It is truly the

first post-Cold War conference (conference began two days after the unification of Germany). After all the years in which your brothers and sisters in Ukraine endured...you and they did not lose touch with each other or with hope. Ukraine is clearly on the verge of autonomy, sovereignty, or outright independence...Its prospects can be bright...You and I can be instrumental in helping this new Ukraine regain its vitality and health."

### **Hello, Operator?.....**

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% of homes in the USSR have phone vs. 95% 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 U.S., 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.

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. 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.

### **Computer-Friendly**

Ms Tamara Horodysky spoke about the Nestor Institute's computer training program in Lviv this summer. Explaining

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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 voc-tech school in Lviv, the organizers faced almost insurmountable difficulties at first. 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 all contributed. 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.

### Lviv Business Center

Dr. Jurczak confirmed Ms Horodysky'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.

### Medical Diagnosis

The conference's final speaker, Dr. Truchly, spoke about the 3rd 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 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 treat-

ment prescribed, given the pervasive lack of medicine, medical supplies and equipment, often the end result could not be attained. Dr. Truchly has no doubt that many people benefitted by the "doctor's from the West", but in turn, the doctor's benefitted from uncensored first hand exposure to health problems in Ukraine. Furthermore, doctors were forced to sharpen their wits and rely on experience to provide diagnosis, given the absence of diagnostic equipment standard in the West.

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. Doctor's came from the educated class and the *zemski likar* was admired for unselfish service. The concept of dedication and sacrifice has all but disappeared. The anti-intellectual bent of the Revolution and the subordination of human associations and the well-being of individuals to the interest of the State was a disaster for the medical profession. 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.

Doctors are not trusted, and with good reason. Of six years of medical school, over 50% 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% of homes in the Soviet Union have hot running water; 27% have no sewage, 17% 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 U.S., 10/1,000 infants die within the first year; in the Soviet Union, 23/1,000. Even this isn't an accurate comparison. In the U.S., all live births are counted, regardless of how many months premature. In the Soviet Union, all infant deaths 7 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 4 million people live in zones contaminated by radioactivity. In Kiev, the radiation level is 4x's 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 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 display, 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." "Yelstin was being portrayed as a provincial buffoon, on a drinking binge in Italy." "Ceacescu was still in power, our Churches were still underground, Scherbitsky was still alive." The list went on and on.

A successful conference, a remarkable year. See you in 1991!

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Oksana Lew 703/255-2335

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **VOLLEYBALL and BASKETBALL AT UKE SCHOOL**

Beginning Saturday, October 27, 1990, an open gym will be provided from 11am-noon for volleyball and basketball enthusiasts. The gym will be open every Saturday that Ridna Shkola is in session. The address is: Westland Intermediate School, 5511 Massachusetts Ave. Bethesda, MD. Contact: John Kun 202/347-8629 - day for further info.

### **NEW EXHIBIT AT HOLY FAMILY**

From Sunday, October 28 through December 8, the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family will feature an exhibit "Ukrainian Youth For Christ - Lviv, 1990". The exhibit contains a collection of posters, prayer books, holy cards, photos and other items which were part of the "Week of Christian Culture" which was celebrated in Lviv September 6-12. This was the first Ukrainian Youth for Christ rally to be held in Ukraine since 1933. The posters and prayer books were designed by artists in Ukraine and Poland specifically for the event. Contact: Laryssa Kurylas 202/333-0344 - day for further information.

### **WELCOME VOLODYMYR DIBROVA**

Volodymyr Dibrova, U.S. correspondent for Rukh's newspaper *Narodna Hazeta* arrived in Washington last month with his wife Lida and young daughter Sophia. Volodymyr will be in Washington for a year writing about events in the U.S. for *Narodna Hazeta*.

### **INTERNATIONAL PEACE WALK** delegation

will be in Washington from November 2 to 13. All the members of this delegation participated in the walk between Kiev and Kharkiv. TWG members are encouraged to meet with the delegation individually, invite them to their homes, take them sightseeing, and show them the Ukrainian side of Washington, particularly the churches, and the Shevchenko Monument. For further information contact: Wendy Zola, IPW, 415/453-0792 or Christine Sonevtsky 703/241-1817.

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## From Annual Meeting page 1

board position. Be kind. However, if you want, you can preempt the call and volunteer yourself. Listed below is a list of the board positions and job descriptions:

**President:** Assumes responsibility for setting the goals and objectives of TWG for the year, and implementing their realization. Official spokesman for TWG. Represents TWG at various functions, events, etc. Liaison with TWG and other Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian organizations, groups, individuals. Presides over board of director meetings, prepares agenda. Drafts responses to general correspondence to TWG, (Secretary takes care of the mailing) and directs specific requests to the proper Board member.

**Vice President:** The alter ego of the President. Represents TWG at events when the President is unable to attend, supports the President in whatever capacity deemed necessary, assumes responsibility for certain TWG activities.

**Secretary:** Primary responsibility is to handle correspondence for TWG, take minutes of the Board of Director meetings, and inform the Board members of events. Sends each Board member the minutes of the Board meeting at least one week prior to the monthly Board Meeting. Is the archivist of TWG, keeping track of and preserving all correspondence, news items about TWG, fliers, and other announcements. Maintains the data bases of TWG records - i.e. lists of events, Board positions, etc. Ideally this person should have access to a word processor (MAC), and be able to keep track of many articles, papers, at one time.

**Treasurer:** Handles all the financial matters of TWG - annual budget running about \$50,000. A background in accounting or finance is helpful since accurate financial data must be kept. Having a computer is helpful for keeping a financial database. Makes regular deposits to TWG's checking and savings accounts, and keeps track of TWG's Fellowship account. Writes checks for expenses, etc. Prepares budget (long-term and for specific activities). Prepares monthly financial statements for each Board meeting. Ensures that admission tables at events are staffed and provided with change. Promptly pays TWG's financial obligations.

**Business Manager:** Manages TWG's inventory of supplies and sales items. Keeps TWG's inventory current. Sets up and staffs sales at TWG and other events. Develops new ways to raise funds for TWG. Works on special projects like compiling list of Ukrainian businesses.

**Membership:** Responsible for maintaining accurate rec-

ord of members. Must have access to computers, such as MAC preferably. Keeps membership information up to date, prepares list of new members for approval by the Board of Directors. Prepares membership lists for TWG annual membership Directory, and other needs. Sends out dues renewal reminders. Directs membership recruitment.

**Public Relations:** TWG publicist: someone with good writing skills, and being bilingual is very helpful. Handles most of the writing about TWG events for the press. Prepares press releases. Makes fliers, announcements for TWG events. Coordination and follow-up with other Ukrainian, ethnic and non-Ukrainian organizations. Studies ways of publicizing and enhancing TWG's image. Maintains list of American journalists with whom TWG should keep contact.

**Special Projects:** Initiates, plans, organizes and directs various projects for TWG, These are one-time events, like concerts, Christmas party, TWG tour. Usually forms a committee to work on these events, separate from the Board.

**Events Director:** Initiates, plans, organizes monthly activities for TWG, such as Friday Evening Forums or social events. Invites guest speakers, decides type of activities, menu, decor, if applicable. Forms a committee of help to work on these events.

**Auditing Committee:** Three people to oversee the workings of the Board of Directors, review the Treasurer's books at the end of the fiscal year, form the Nominating Committee before the annual meeting, and verify the election results. Attend Board of Directors meeting, assist in the planning and execution of events, and be available for projects when necessary. Monitor TWG's activities for adherences to Articles of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws.

### The Nominating Committee:

Halyna Breslawec (301)983-0152

Ihor Vitkovitsky (301)439-9123

Natalie Sluzar (703)573-6118

Call a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interesting in serving on the TWG Board of Directors or Auditing Committee

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## November

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9 FRIDAY, 7:30PM

### GENERAL MEETING - UNWLA

Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family  
4250 Harewood Rd. NW.

Contact: Mrs. Terlecky (703)521-3048 (day/eve)

9 FRIDAY, 7:30PM

### RECEPTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE WALK DELEGATION

St. Sophia's Religious Association  
2615 30th Street, NW

Contact: Christine Sonevsky (703)241-1817

10-11 SATURDAY/SUNDAY

### PLAST ORLYKIADA

SOYUZIVKA

Contact: Ulana Sos (301) 622-0911 (eve)

11 SATURDAY, 1:15 PM

### YURI SPIZHENKO/MAKSYM DRACH

Sponsored by: Ukraine 2000

St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral  
15000 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

Contact: Nadia McConnell (202)347-4264

16 FRIDAY, 7:30PM

### FUNDRAISER PLANNING MEETING

Ukrainian-American Community Network  
9311 Kendale Road, Potomac, MD

Contact: Laryssa Fontana (301)365-2490 (day/eve)

17 SATURDAY, 10AM - 1PM

### HOLIDAY FOOD SALE

Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Westland Intermediate

5111 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD

Contact: Oksana Lew (703)255-2335

30 FRIDAY, 6:30PM

### TWG ANNUAL MEETING

Party Room - Van Ness East  
2939 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Video of rock concert in Ivano Frankivske

Presentation by TWG Tour II

Contact: Lydia Chopivsky-Benson (202)333-6693

## December

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1 SATURDAY, Noon - 7PM

2 SUNDAY, 1PM - 4PM

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral

15000 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

Contact: Rev. Podhurec (301)384-9192

1 SATURDAY, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church

2615 30th Street, NW

Contact: Irene Stawnychy (301)439-7319 (H)

1 SATURDAY, 10AM - 5PM

2 SUNDAY, 1PM - 5PM

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and UCNS BOOK SALE

Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family  
4250 Harewood Rd., NW

Contact: Roman Rusynko (703)360-9310

8 SATURDAY, 7:00PM

### TWG CHRISTMAS PARTY

Party Room - Van Ness East

2939 Van Ness Street, NW

Contact: Lydia Chopivsky-Benson (202)333-6693

16 SATURDAY, 7:30PM

### 40TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral

15000 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

Contact: Rev. Podhurec (301)384-9192

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THE WASHINGTON GROUP, An Association of Ukrainian-American Professionals, with members throughout the United States, offers its members an opportunity to meet and get to know each other through a variety of professional, educational, and social activities. TWG NEWS serves as a communication network for TWG members and keeps you informed of activities and information of interest to you.

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: FULL(\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATE(\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

FULL-TIME STUDENT(\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ (PAYMENT MUST BE IN U.S. DOLLARS)

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