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Media Relations in Kiev: An Uphill Struggle

by Irene Jarosewich

(Former TWG Editor Irene Jarosewich returned to Washington, DC in early April after nine months in Ukraine where she had been working for Rukh as the press liaison for foreign correspondents. On April 28, she gave a presentation about her work in Ukraine. Below are excerpts from her presentation and the question and answer session that followed.)

Dobry vechir, good evening. It is wonderful to be back in Washington, to be back home. These past nine months have been a remarkable time for me and I would like to thank a few people before I begin my presentation. First of all, I would like to thank my parents, who were supportive of me and my efforts throughout my stay in Ukraine and throughout my life instilled in me a

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TWG Events

June 5 - Film

Ukraine, Third Journey to Independence

June 12 - Myron Kuropas

**June 24 - Beer Tasting and Seminar
at the Brickskeller**

June 26 - Jon Keeton

Peace Corps in Ukraine

Ukraine: A View from the Outside

by Vera Kaczmarzky

Last month, TWG members had a chance to meet Robert Cullen, former bureau chief of Newsweek's Moscow office, currently working for The New Yorker. Our readers might recognize him as the author of the wonderful article on Ukraine published in The New Yorker last January.

While the The New Yorker article reflected Cullen's enthusiasm at meeting such interesting personalities in Ukraine as Jurii Shcherbak (doctor, writer, parliamentarist, head of Green World movement) and Brooklyn-born Rabbi Bleich (currently rabbi of Kiev) and "being driven" by their compelling stories, at this forum, Robert Cullen had a decidedly more sober assessment of Ukraine, its road to independence, its (and the Kravchuk government's) future.

It is clear that Robert Cullen does not share the diaspora's euphoria about Ukraine's independence. He perceives several looming problems, which he came to talk about.

First of all, how committed is Ukraine's population to independence?

A talk with the Vice President of the Ukrainian Sociological Association of Ukraine, Vitalii Khmelko, showed that, according to data from Mykolaiv oblast polled in 1991, the "independence-mindedness" of the population, at least in this area of Ukraine, was not deeply entrenched. It's worth looking at the data more closely.

Cullen notes that in the first polling of popular sentiment in Mykolaiv in February 1991, only 17% of the voting population here said they wanted independence. In the March referendum, 70% of the Mykolaiv voters said "yes" to the Gorbachev question, 80% to the Ukrainian parliamentarians' question, which Cullens interprets as a vote for some kind of association with the Union. By the time a poll was taken in October (several weeks before the official referendum), that number had jumped to 67% as a result of the following:

- the attempted coup in August raised the number of votes for independence to 24%
- the statement made in August by Yeltsin's press secretary on border revisions raised fears of Russian imperialism, and made that figure rise to 44%
- the jump from 44% to the 67% for independence polled in October, just two months prior to the official vote was in response to the actual campaign for independence, as well as the press

see Cullen, page 8

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The gremlins did it!!!
The computer nerds did it!!!!!!f`>>>><<<<<
Some mysterious buggers got into the TWG computer and
dIO##Llll it. They turned the usually conservative TWG
corporate grays and blues into wild, funky orange and painted
the whole TWG Directory that color. Worse, they never learned
their English grammar and messed up the cover
letter!!!llldoeld^****???

Look for a special package from TWG in your mail box soon!
The buggers Z okeOOdV mailed it bulk mail.



From the Board of Directors:

The TWG 1992 Directory has been printed and mailed. Please note the restrictions placed on the use of the Directory for personal mailings and abide by them. In addition, summaries of the annual meeting reports of the Board members were also mailed out. This includes the latest financial statement.

Numerous changes have been incorporated into the TWG by-laws over the past years. A new version of the by-laws has been completed and mailed to each member.

A TWG Membership Survey was also compiled. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey by the end of June. This will greatly assist the Board in planning TWG activities and projects.

Special Thank You to:

- Emil Pyk and Theodosia Kichorowsky for contributing to the TWG Fellowship Fund.
- Marta Pereyma and Danusia and Wasyl Wasylkiwskyj for contributing to the Chernobyl Fund.
- Dr. Zenon Derzko for giving TWG a computer and two monitors.

TWG donated \$150 to the US-Ukraine Foundation toward sponsorship of the banquet in honor of Minister of Defense Konstantin Morozov.

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TWG FELLOWSHIP FUND

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Since April 1991, the TWG Fellowship committee has awarded six grants totaling \$7,812 for candidates from Ukraine. All candidates/projects met a key criterion of the Fellowship Program: utilizing Washington area resources. The recipients were:

— Halyna Teodorovych, a 32-year-old philologist from Lviv, awarded \$2,000 for a three-month (June-August, 1991) internship at the Library of Congress. Ms. Teodorovych assisted the Library of Congress Ukrainian Area Specialist in the compilation of bibliographies on various Ukrainian topics and learned about the workings of the Library.

— The second award, for \$1,000, was to assist in the funding of the highly successful April, 1991 seminar for Ukrainian legislators. Fourteen leading Ukrainian parliamentarians participated in the two week program under the auspices of the United States Information Agency and NKM Associates/Ukraine 2000.

— Yuri Pryhornytsky, then Washington correspondent for "Literaturna Ukraina" who during his 8-month stay in Washington had articles published on various aspects of life in Washington was awarded \$1,000.

— Valentina Bilokhovska, a doctor from Ukraine, received a grant for \$1,112 to cover her tuition for a nine-week (July-August, 1991) course in Nephropathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

— Oleksander Nechiporenko and Andriy Mostytsky, two Ukrainian parliamentarians who are members of the Ukrainian Supreme Rada's Foreign Affairs Committee, received a grant of \$1,500 which helped defray the costs of their May 10-16, 1992, visit to Washington. The UNA Washington Office and several TWG members helped arrange their visit and meetings with Congress, State Department, Helsinki Commission, Library of Congress and various think-tanks.

— Yuny Ruban, a Professor of Data Management at the Kiev Polytechnical Institute, was provided a scholarship of \$1,200 for his April 1 - May 15, 1992, internship at the Library of Congress, where he was studying the operations of a parliamentary library. Following his return to Kiev, Dr. Ruban will establish a Library/Resource Center for use by members of the Ukrainian parliament.

This library will also serve as a reference source for the Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy, which is being established by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

The Fellowship Fund relies exclusively on contributions. If TWG is to continue to support these worthwhile projects to concretely assist qualified Ukrainians, and thus help the nation-building in Ukraine, the Fund needs your continued support.

To contribute to the TWG Fellowship Fund, please make checks out to: TWG Fellowship Fund. Address: The Washington Group, TWG Fellowship Fund, P.O. Box 11248, Washington, D.C. 20008.

The Fellowship Committee welcomes questions or suggestions. Please feel free to contact Orest Deychakiwsky, Fellowship Fund Chairman: (301) 937-0492 after 8 pm weekdays.

Supreme Rada of Ukraine

To The Washington Group:

On behalf of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, and from us personally, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for a very interesting and varied program during our visit to Washington.

You have made it possible for us to acquire valuable experience for further improvement of the work of Ukraine's parliament. In addition, by meeting representatives of various organizations and agencies, we were able to spell out for them the true internal and external policies of Ukraine.

Everywhere and everytime we felt your friendly support and help, good advice. We hope to maintain further cooperation with you in various spheres for the benefit and good of Ukraine.

With the best memories and heartfelt wishes for all the best.

Andriy Mostytsky
Oleksadr Nechiporenko

Book Collection

TWG and other Washington organizations collected books for the library at the new US Embassy in Kiev. These included Ukrainian encyclopedias, Bohdan Vitvitsky's book on the non-Jewish holocaust victims, Robert Conquest's monumental work on the 1932-1933 famine in Ukraine, and various other publications.

To continue this project, TWG is requesting book donations from its members. Books can be either in English or Ukrainian, and should be on topics of interest to present-day Ukrainians. Go through your library, and send us those book you hate to part with. Mail them to the TWG post office box, Books for Kiev.

For further information call Lydia Chopivsky-Benson (202)686-6975.



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Roman Popadiuk Sworn-in as First U. S. Ambassador to Ukraine at the White House

Roman Popadiuk was sworn-in as the first United States Ambassador to Ukraine in a White House ceremony on Tuesday, May 27th.

Chief of Protocol from the State Department, Ambassador John Weinmann, administered the oath of office. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Arnold Kanter, filling in for Secretary of State Baker and Deputy Secretary Eagleburger, who were both overseas at the time, presided over the ceremony.

Sworn-in at the same time was Sig Rogich, Assistant to the President, as U. S. Ambassador to Iceland.

While his wife, Judith, held the family Bible, and the four Popadiuk children and family members looked on, Roman took the oath, and then went to a specially set up desk to sign the official papers accepting his post as Ambassador to Ukraine.

In his welcoming remarks, Secretary Kanter stated that it isn't very often he gets to swear-in the first ambassador to a new country. He said that this was a historic moment, at a time when Ukraine is taking a path toward democracy and a free market and assuming its rightful place among the citizens of Europe and the world. "The President's dispatch of you to Kiev signals that the United States wishes to become Ukraine's partner. As Secretary Baker mentioned, we want to create a democratic partnership with Ukraine for peace. This partnership will be deep and broad," Secretary Kanter said.

Referring to Roman Popadiuk's Ukrainian heritage, Secretary Kanter noted that he cannot imagine anyone else who is better qualified for the position of U. S. Ambassador to Ukraine. But Popadiuk is highly qualified in other ways. He served as special assistant to the U. S. ambassador in Mexico City. He became assistant press secretary at the White House in 1984 and later served as special assistant to President Reagan and deputy press secretary for foreign affairs. In 1988 Popadiuk was appointed deputy assistant to the President and deputy press secretary.

In a brief statement following his oath, Roman Popadiuk thanked President Bush for his support and for giving him this opportunity to undertake such an important new challenge. Popadiuk also thanked, among others, National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater for their confidence in him and for their support.

Over two hundred people attended the ceremony and reception in the Indian Treaty of the Old Executive Office Building, including White House staffers, officials from other government agencies, and representatives from numerous Ukrainian organizations attended.

President George Bush stopped by for the reception. Saying "I should not be happy about this," President Bush commended Popadiuk for the outstanding job he did as deputy press secretary for foreign affairs for three years. "He kept us out of trouble," the President said smiling. The President praised Popadiuk for his "unfailing attention

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Drach, Brzezinski, Hawrylyshyn Win 1991 Antonovych Prizes

The Omelan and Tatiana Antonovych Foundation will award three prizes this year at a ceremony in Kiev on July 2.

The winners of the 1991 prizes, according to a Foundation release, are Kiev poet and statesman "Ivan Drach for his poem *Chornobyl Madonna* and his many contributions to the cause of Ukraine's independence; Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski, for his numerous works in the sphere of political science, and in particular for his work *THE GRAND FAILURE. The Birth and Death of Communism in the Twentieth Century*, in which he foresaw the key role of Ukraine in the development of events in Eastern Europe; and Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, for his thorough analytical studies of economic and political processes in Ukraine."

The Washington Group, which has hosted three of the last eleven Antonovych Foundation prize ceremonies, has a number of ties with this year's event, as well. Both founders, Drs. Omelan and Tatiana Antonovych, are TWG members; both Drs. Brzezinski and Hawrylyshyn have addressed TWG events; TWG member, Dr. Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, herself a winner of the Antonovych Prize, this year is one of the judges selecting the prize winners.

Ukrainian Institute of America in New York was the site of the first six award ceremonies. Then in 1988 the founders turned to TWG, suggesting that it organize the Antonovych Prize ceremony as a benefit for the TWG Fellowship Fund. The ceremonies were held in Washington until 1990, and last year the event was held in Kiev.

If you plan to be in Kiev this July 2, you should plan to attend this event that bridges independent Ukraine with its American diaspora.



Learning Ukrainian Is an Investment

Teaching and learning Ukrainian language has the makings of a growth industry: diplomacy, business, development organizations are seeking people who can speak the language taught for generations in Saturday schools, when playing fields were beckoning.

This summer, Arlington County is offering a beginning Ukrainian course among the dozen or so foreign languages within its Adult Education Program.

The instructor in Arlington is Marianna Katerinyuk-Novak, a native of Uzhhorod in the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine, who currently teaches and translates Ukrainian at the World Bank.

Classes begin June 9 and will meet once a week for two-and-a-half hours over a 16-week period. Teaching materials will be provided to all students.

For information about the Arlington County Ukrainian courses please call 703/358-6900.

Notes on Members

Roxolana Armstrong, a recognized artist in Spain and the United States recently added Ukraine to her list of countries that recognize her talents. In 1982, for the 50th commemoration of the 1932-33 famine in Ukraine, Armstrong designed a poster for the Commemorative Committee in New York. Thousands of copies of these posters were displayed at the mass rally in Washington. Now a copy of that poster has been reproduced in Kiev and available for purchase. In November, 1991 two of Armstrong's works on Chernobyl were selected for a juried exhibit "First Biennale, Lviv, 1991 *Vidrodzhennya*." The two month-long exhibit showed paintings, sculpture and graphic of artists from Ukraine and the diaspora. The exhibit was sponsored by various cultural associations and galleries and the National Museum of Lviv, the Lviv Union of Artists of Ukraine, the Club of Ukrainian Artists and the Regional Department of the Ukrainian Fund of Culture. Among the jurors was Canadian artist Daria Darewich, and artists Viktor Moskaliy, Boris Buriak, and Valeri Basanetz.

Yet another TWG member moved to Kiev recently: **Tania Chomiak**, a graduate student at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy is getting some practical experience at the American Embassy, working at the U.S. Information Service for the summer. She arrived in Kiev on Air Ukraine May 20 and started to work the next day. Unlike other diplomats and business people whose first headache is finding a place to stay (other than a hotel), Tania moved in with her sister **Dora**, who does have an apartment leased by her employer, the International Renaissance Foundation. And among the first persons Tania saw in Kiev was **Don Wynnyczok**, country director of the International Executive Service Corps, who was looking for an apartment *and* an office, while living in a hotel.

William Courtney, ambassador-designate to Kazakhstan and currently chargé d'affaires there, accompanied Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to the U.S., then stayed for a few days with his family on a mini-vacation before heading back to Alma Ata. The ambassador will be back in Washington when the U.S. Senate schedules a hearing on his nomination.

Cleveland Plain Dealer columnist William F. Miller devoted his entire May 20 piece to **Nick Deychakiwsky**, now executive secretary of the 12-member International Advisory Council to the Ukrainian Parliament. "Cleveland finds Kiev job fascinating" reads the headline over the column, which tells about Nick's brief visit to his native city, where he deposited his new wife Oksana for a couple of months ("She plans to stay until July and learn more about this country, while her husband returned to work last week," writes Miller. The two met in Kiev "at a Ukrainian opera called 'The Golden Ring,' and soon [he] slipped a golden ring on her finger."

Deychakiwsky told Miller: "I never thought I would be working for a free Ukrainian government, because until last year, Ukraine was under harsh dictatorship of the Soviets. But there is a new future in Ukraine, and I am happy to be able to help my own way." The job in Kiev, writes Miller, was the end result of Nick's attendance at the St. Josaphat Ukrainian School in Parma, Ohio, where he began studying Ukrainian language as a child.

Hilary Kinal has been busy since he left Washington about a year ago



Maksym Dmytruk, Jr. (Full)
New Haven, CT

Hlib Hayuk (Full)
Professor of Geography
Towson, MD

Marion Hurinenko (Associate)
Engineer/Rancher
Manning, ND

Louis Love Misko (Associate)
Political Science Writer/Teacher
Pittsburg, PA

Judith Pucak (Associate)
Environmental Researcher
Amherst, NY

Marion Recktenwald (Associate)
PhD Student/Research Assistant
Washington, DC

Richard Shriver (Associate)
Publisher, *Ukrainian Business Digest*
Westport, CT

Notes on Members Cont'd

and moved to the Pittsburgh area. In January, Kinal was elected President of the Ukrainian Technology Society of Pittsburgh. In May, he married Gloria Barshowski. Kinal is an attorney for the Beaver County, Pennsylvania, Court. Gloria coordinates the gifted education program for the Avonworth School District. Congratulations!

Wolodymyr Sushko's letter to the *Baltimore Sun* appeared in the May 17th issue. Responding to the paper's analysis of the Crimean question, Sushko states that, "Geographically, economically and historically the Crimea was always a part of Ukraine, even though it was for long times under foreign domination." After giving a brief historical overview, Sushko explains "The Crimea was never "Russian" but only subject of the Russian empire...But current Russian territorial claims on the Crimea are nothing else but old imperial desires to bring the young and independent Ukrainian nation back under the Russian heel."

TWG News editors always welcome information on the activities of the far-flung members of *The Washington Group*. Jot down a few lines on a piece of paper, (or input them on a Mac diskette) and send to: Society Editor, TWG News
P.O. Box 11248
Washington DC 20008

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love for Ukraine and a desire to go there. I'd like to thank this community, where I grew up, for helping to cultivate in me a Ukrainian sense of self. I am also very grateful to the Rochester New York Rukh Committee and its chair Mrs. Marta Shmigel for financially supporting my work in Ukraine and for taking the risk on an individual unknown to them, as well as the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine in New Jersey and Mr. Bohdan Burachynsky for understanding the need for a press relations program for Rukh. And I would like to thank various organizations in Washington, Ukraine 2000, members of its board of directors, Bohdan Futey, Robert and Nadia McConnell, and by no means least of all, TWG, and all my friends here with whom I have worked for the past five years and who have been so incredibly helpful to me, including sending me things in Kiev and lifting my spirits through letters and messages and visits.

I arrived in Ukraine on July 12, 1991, for what was to be a 3 month experiment whether or not western oriented press relations could be set up at Rukh, the popular movement of Ukraine. I stayed 9 months and plan to go back again. My position with Rukh was press liaison for foreign correspondents. My goal at that time was first and foremost to promote Rukh, the leaders of Rukh, and then the goals of Rukh to create pluralistic democracy, a free market economy and national independence in Ukraine and to guarantee the rights of Ukrainians on an international arena. In July of last year, it must be remembered, this was still an opposition platform. However, after August 24, Rukh's goals became Ukraine's goals and the arena of my work broadened tremendously.

My secondary goal was to train or at least develop a consciousness within Rukh about the requirements of the western press. The biggest difference between the west and the former republics of the Soviet Union is the perception of the function of information. The assumption, in Ukraine, though it is not exclusive to Ukraine, and at this point it is more out of habit than ideology, is that information is to be controlled, and that the press is really a service function of those in power, to promote those in power. In the west, it is good to share information. The press is meant to service its readership, the people, provide a check on those in power, and it is in the best interest of those in power to service the press. In the west, we believe "in the right to know," and its none of your business why I want to know it; there the attitude more resembles "why do you need to know that? I'll tell you everything you need to know." Basically these are diametrically opposed views.

The most notorious recent example of the conflict in perception and role of the press was between Eduard Pershing, press secretary for Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko and a Reuters correspondent. During the March 9 meeting of the CIS in Kiev, Pershing, in front of approximately a dozen foreign correspondents snapped at the correspondent from Reuters, which is one of the most widely distributed news services in the world, "What are you asking me that question for? I've already told you everything you need to know." Needless to say, Pershing's comment was quickly interpreted by the western press to mean something like "spokesman for the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry refused to answer questions put

forth to him about the progress of today's meeting of the CIS and offered no explanation for his refusal."

Ukrainians in the diaspora have frequently complained that Ukraine and Ukrainians are at the receiving end of a bad deal with regards to press and publicity and I will not dispute that. I have spent the last four years of my life resisting the ignorance, the lies, the disinformation, the snobbism, the non-sequiturs that underlie the frequently negative publicity aimed in Ukraine's direction. However, it is also the case that Ukrainians in the diaspora, as well as in Ukraine, have not and do not fully understood or act in accordance with what every politician, every tyrant, every marketing department knows information is power and that one of the reasons that so much effort has been expended on Ukraine in order to discredit it is because Ukraine was perceived as a threat, and a latent power.

If ever Ukraine came into its own, as it has, then entire world views and world realities would have to change, as they did and must continue to do so, thereby causing, at a minimum, discomfort, disruption, resentment, which in fact have happened and continue to happen. If Ukraine, and Ukraine alone, because no other republics other than Russia fit into this equation, had not voted for independence, then in all probability, the Soviet Union would continue to exist today. This is a very powerful thought. Without Ukraine's vote for independence, in all probability, the Soviet Union would continue to exist today. Ukraine voted for independence and three weeks later the Soviet Union, and for all intents and purposes the Russian Empire was over. That's pretty mindboggling. However, after nine months in Ukraine, I am convinced that others understood this thought and the implications better than Ukrainians themselves. With independence, Ukrainians need to be prepared to develop strategies to deflect the inevitable resentment and antagonism that comes with such an extraordinary shift in power.

When I arrived in July of 1991 in Kiev, there were eight registered foreign correspondents in Kiev, when I left, there were 24. There are 1,500 foreign correspondents in Moscow. This is not necessarily good or bad, except for the fact that most reporting about Ukraine still happens out of Moscow, and it is difficult to get Ukraine's version of the truth, even for those who try. It is not the case that all Moscow correspondents are pro-Russian, lazy, dimwitted, etc. It is genuinely difficult to travel and communicate over there. Before the recent price hikes in telephone costs, it could take two hours to get a call into Moscow from Kiev and vice-versa. If you are under deadline, the temptation is to say the heck with it, particularly if the information is not essential to the story.

I spent many an evening on the phone calling key publications and wire services in Moscow with a quote from Drach, or Horyn, or somebody else on any given issue, knowing that no reporter from Moscow was going to spend several hours trying to track down Drach or Pavlychko or Chornovil by phone. In the western world, where time is money and information is a resource, each one of these individuals, Drach, Chornovil, Horyn, Pavlychko are on a level of influence and responsibility that they would merit their own press secretary, not one lone press liaison trying to get their quotes placed. Their words help form opinions, those opinions form policy and actions that affect people's lives. This is a

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linkage that we take for granted. However, I also know that each one of them feels uncomfortable with the notion that they are powerful people, and often reject what they perceive to be "the trappings of power." Though this can be endearing, it can quite frankly, also drive you crazy.

It was my experience that whenever a reporter got to Ukraine, whether from Moscow or the "outside" world, the story given, whether it was news or feature, was accurate and basically a good story. Furthermore, almost all of the correspondents with whom I worked genuinely liked Ukraine. I personally met with over 400 foreign correspondents and delegations, from several dozen countries and provided them with everything from 15 minute briefings to planning a week's worth of activities, and found that almost every single one of them put their professional mandate first — to write an accurate story, which, of course is based on good information, not rhetoric, but good information that could be double-checked, double-sourced, tight quotes, succinct background, good analysis, all requirements of western journalism. Though I spent not an insignificant amount of time battling preconceptions and ignorance, I spent most of my time supplying phone numbers, quotes, facts, contacts and sources, the basic tools of a good story.

People often ask me "what's it like there?" and I still have not come up with a good response to this question. I'm left speechless, mostly because I have conflicting reactions. My more civilized instinct is to respond, "Um, well, its very different. Thank you for asking." My less civilized response is to laugh and blurt out, "whaaaaat?? are you kidding?? there's nothing like it." Which gets to the core of the "Ukraine experience". It's a paradox. It's simultaneously wonderful and terrible. I've met some of the nicest people, as well as some of the creepiest I've known in my life. Some of the most selfless and committed and some of the laziest. In the morning I would have a cab driver try to rip me off for 20 times the fare, because I'm an American and therefore I'm rich, in the afternoon, a cab driver would take me around all afternoon for free because he liked to hear an American speak Ukrainian the way "his grandmother spoke", it made him feel better. In the morning, I would go to St. Sophia's Cathedral, view the phenomenal mosaic of the centuries-old "Oranta" and be uplifted; in the afternoon, I would enter a public library, view a decades-old, floor to ceiling mosaic of Lenin's stern and frankly mean-spirited face and feel intimidated. Up and down, good and evil, all in a day's work.

Also part of a day's work was responding to the Kiev-Moscow/Moscow-Kiev war of the words. One of my favorite stories, which I call "The Fleeing Russians" is from the months prior to the December 1 referendum. Sometime in late October, early November, Moscow put on a push to try and convince Ukrainians to vote against independence. People's deputies from the Russian Congress would travel to the eastern oblasts of Ukraine and agitate against the referendum; millions of leaflets were distributed — "five reasons to vote No"; Russian television, which is broadcast into Ukraine, had an endless lineup of "experts" explaining why independence would be terrible for Ukraine. The parliament of Ukraine issued a formal protest to the Russian parliament about the roving deputies from Russia.

At a morning press conference in Moscow, Yeltsin was asked to respond to the protest from the Ukrainian parliament. He answered that Ukrainian independence was of concern to him and he had an obligation to protest since if Ukraine voted for independence, he would have to deal with the consequences of independence, namely "five million Russians which would flee back to their homeland." Yep. Five million. That's alot. Therefore he was worried.

However, I came into my office in the early afternoon, knowing nothing of Yeltsin's concerns. I received a phone call from a British television station asking me if I could help them set up some interviews with Russians planning to leave Ukraine. Hmmmm.... said I, I'm not sure I know of any right off hand, were there any in particular they had in mind? "Sure," they replied, "the one's Yeltsin was referring to." "Uh, huh," I said, "let me check this out and I will get back to you." No sooner had I hung up the phone, then another call with the same request came through. I told them the same thing. The third call came from a producer from NBC, a friend of mine. "Excuse me," I asked her, "can you please tell me what the hell is going on?" She told me about Yeltsin's press conference and that if it were true, that is, if five million Russians were ready to flee, "it would be a great visual." I'm sure it would have been, but of course, it was completely not true. I sighed and told her that I had my strong doubts that five million Russians were ready to flee, however, if she could find me just five fleeing Russians through her other sources in Ukraine, I would pay for her crew's airfare, hotel, translator and ground transportation in Ukraine.

Though I have always known of the "Great Russian" mentality, I can not say that growing up in Washington, that I was deeply affected by it. It was sort of an abstract rhetorical reality and did not really affect my sense of confidence, my American world view or for that matter, my own internal sense of what I valued from my Ukraine heritage. However, it is a very serious psychological reality for Ukraine. It is important to note that there is not a necessary correlation between ethnicity and "Great Russianness." There are plenty of ethnic Ukrainians who adhere to it, and plenty of ethnic Russians that do not. The logic is something like this: All things Russian are superior and preferable. All people want to do things that are superior and preferable. Therefore all people really want to be Russian. Scary, but true. Lots of people actually believe this. And Ukraine's battle is going to be just as much psychological as political and economic.

I'm reminded of an incident with an English-Russian translator from Moscow working for a British TV crew, who spoke no Ukrainian. She told me that I wasn't needed to translate for Chornovil, "because his Russian was perfectly acceptable." I reminded her that he preferred to speak Ukrainian, that he had spent 15 years in the Soviet gulags fighting for that right, and since her Ukrainian was completely unacceptable, I guess it would have to be me to do the Ukrainian-English translation. I'd like to say I felt some satisfaction or outrage, (well, OK, I did feel some outrage), but actually, I felt sort of sorry for her. Another time, a British correspondent told me that "Ukrainians should stop kicking Russia in the shins. After all, Russia is going through a psychological crisis. It's difficult to lose an empire." Yes, I'm sure it is. Oh well. It was also difficult being a colony.

Ukrainian Embassy in Washington

The first Embassy of Ukraine in the United States was officially opened by Secretary of State Baker and President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk on May 5th. The ribbon cutting ceremony included blessings by Bishop Walter Paska and V. Rev. William Diakiw and followed by the traditional champagne toast.

Ukraine is in fact one of the few former Soviet republics which was able to open an Embassy so quickly. Located in the heart of Washington's commercial and financial district, 18th and L Streets, NW, in a high rise building on the 7th floor above Brooks Brothers, it is a spacious suite of offices. The Russian Republic holds the massive building complex that once housed the Embassy of the Soviet Union.

The tryzub, with "Embassy of Ukraine" engraved beneath it, is on a plaque outside the door. Inside, among the many nooks and passages soon to house a dozen or more Embassy staff members, large paintings decorate the walls — works of art by contemporary Ukrainian artists. The scenes represent idealistic images of Ukraine: fields, forests, flowers, peasant straw-thatched houses, winter scenes, etc.

In Ambassador Oleh Bilorus's spacious office the blue and yellow flag stand behind his dark-wood desk; a portrait of Leonid Kravchuk hangs on the wall above. Huge paintings adorn the other walls. It has a classic elegance about it, and yet it's simple, almost utilitarian.

This will have to do for now — until more permanent quarters can be found.

Leasing office space in Washington can be a harrowing experience for the newly independent republics, high on ethnic pride, but low on cash. With per square foot prices ranging above \$25.00, many a dream of a stately mansion overlooking the White House has been shattered. Rubles just don't do it in Washington, and few of the new republics have foreign currency reserves.

James M. Connelly, who represented Ukraine in its leasing arrangements, recently stated in a Washington Post article, "The reality is that the budgetary concerns are very real."

Armenia is borrowing office space from the Armenian Assembly of America, and Belarus is leasing office space and furniture as well from a benevolent capitalist.

The State Department, which reviews and approves or disapproves all embassies' locations hopes that all the new republics will eventually find space somewhere within the District. State Department officials even accompany diplomats on their office-hunting expeditions.

Office space is one thing, but living the life of a diplomat in Washington is another issue. The cost of a Washington lunch, not to mention a dinner with a fellow diplomat, is usually more than 6 months wages for the typical worker in these countries. It costs lots of money to live the life of a Washington diplomat, money which these countries do not have and cannot afford.

Wynnyczok's Challenge

To help with this burden, two Washingtonians, businessman Don Wynnyczok and Texaco executive Mike Kostiw, privately paid the initiation fee for the Ukrainian Embassy at the Army Navy Club, located on Farragut Square, 17th and I Streets, NW. The Army Navy Club's membership is comprised of many diplomats, members of Congress, and active duty and retired commissioned officers.

As a challenge, Wynnyczok and Kostiw are asking that other business and professionals, individuals or organizations, make a commitment to support the Ukrainian Embassy's membership in the Army Navy Club and contribute \$100.00 which will cover the \$25.00 monthly fee, plus extra money for entertainment for the Ambassador. It's important that Ukraine be represented in the right circles in the style comparable to other Western diplomats.

For further information contact Natalie Sluzar (703)573-6118

Cullen

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coverage, which Cullen characterizes as "as one-sided in favour of independence as it has once been in favor of Communism."

Given these data, Cullen calls into question the contention made by many Ukrainian-Americans that the December referendum is indicative that everybody in Ukraine was finally and irrevocably for independence. Rather, he believes that it was the result of a series of events, as outlined above, that brought about a steep change in public opinion, but certainly not an irreversible one.

Cullen went on to point out some problem areas in Ukraine which potentially place its independent statehood in jeopardy. First of all, Cullen believes that if the Ukrainian government attempts to extend the spread of the Ukrainian language by force, it could run into serious problems. He points out that Ukraine's population includes 12 million ethnic Russians; 30% of all families in Ukraine are mixed; surzhyk, or the mixture of Russianized Ukrainian (or vice versa) is prevalent; 60% of even the bilingual population allegedly prefers to speak Russian. These data reflect a "linguistic fault line" that could cause serious rifts.

The issue of Crimea is also problematic. Cullen discounts views that the separatist tendencies there are fanned by Moscow. Instead, he sees the population's call for a referendum vote on independence as an indigenous grass-roots movement by the same people who just last year were part of the democratic opposition to the Communists here. He strongly believes that their rights must be upheld. If Ukraine chooses to "play the Crimean Tatar card", as he says, that is, support the Crimean Tatars' demands for autonomy within the Ukrainian state and ignoring the demands of the population currently "on the ground" in Crimea, the possibility of a Serbian-Croatian type conflict in Crimea are very high.

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Cullen

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Underlying all of these tensions, and key to Ukraine's new-found independence is what will happen with Ukraine's economy. If the Russian economy should push out ahead of the Ukrainian economy — as seems to be the trend — Cullen does not rule out the possibility that the Russians who had voted for Ukraine's independence will want another chance to recast that vote. And it is true that economic reform is lagging in Ukraine because Kravchuk has to keep the nomenclatura who elected him happy. This means that he will continue to lag on privatizing and reforming the economy.

In sum, Cullen's prognosis for Ukraine was not very positive. He predicted that Kravchuk's government would come to a difficult end. Internationally, he noted that Ukraine has lost good will over the nuclear weapons issue, as well as the beginnings of "an Iranian connection" — the oil for weapons deal Ukraine allegedly concluded with Iran which Cullen's predicts will put it into the bad graces of the West.

Will compelling individual stories such as Shcherbak's, Rabbi Bleich's, etc. be able to turn things around? Though he doesn't quite draw an analogy so neatly, Cullen does point out that "by 1989, the Lithuanians were ready to eat dirt if they had to be independent." It was clear, he continued, "that you oppose this force at your peril". The implicit question is, of course, "What about Ukraine?"

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Popadiuk

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to detail," and for the "masterful job that he did handling international affairs for the national press."

The President referred to the significance of the job that Popadiuk will be undertaking. "But this is just the beginning because Roman Popadiuk now begins an unusually challenging assignment at a time when the United States and Ukraine are beginning a new important relationship and partnership," the President said.

Among the guests was the first Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Oleh Bilorus, who said, "Today my colleague and friend Roman Popadiuk has taken the oath to become the first in history United States Ambassador to Ukraine. This is a great event. This means that the United States not only recognizes Ukraine as a major European country, but is ready to become partners and cooperate together."

Other prominent guests attending included senior White House staff members: Brent Scowcroft, National Security Advisor; Marlin Fitzwater, Press Secretary to the President; Boyden Gray, the President's Councilor; Billy Krystal, Chief of Staff for Vice President Quayle; David Beckwith, Press Secretary for Vice President Quayle, Ken Duberstein, Chief of Staff to former President Reagan.

Administration officials Robert Gates, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Secretary of Transportation Card, former Secretary of Commerce Mosbacher and Jose Martinez, head of the U. S. Trade and Development Program attended. Chase Untermeyer, Director of the Voice of America and Associate Director of the United States Information Agency Paula Dobriansky were there. Former Senator Laxalt Ambassador, Lev Dobriansky, and Judge Bohdan Futey from the U. S. Claims Court also attended.

Michaylo Horyn, who stayed behind after the Kravchuk delegation departed for a multi-city speaking tour, attended.

Among the various Ukrainian civil, cultural and religious organizations represented were the Ukrainian Institute of America, Ukrainian National Association, Ukrainian Coordinating Committee, the Ukrainian Women's League, the Ukrainian-American Veterans, and others. Archbishop Antony, and Bishop Vikentios also attended.

AFTER INDEPENDENCE: BUILDING A NATION

THE WASHINGTON GROUP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Washington, D. C.

October 9-11, 1992



Community Calendar

June 5 — Friday

Ukraine, Third Journey to Independence

A dramatic documentary on Europe's newest nation and its turbulent struggle for independence
St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral
Silver Spring, MD
7:30 PM
General Admission: \$6.00
Seniors/Students: \$3.00
For information call (703)573-6118

June 5 - 7 — Friday to Sunday

Philatelic Exhibition NAPEX '92

Sheraton National Hotel
Columbia Pike and Washington Blvd
Arlington, VA
(among the exhibits will be Andrij Solczanyk's exhibit "Aeronautics with Ukrainian Connections")

June 12 — Friday

Myron Kuropas

U. S. Administrations, From Wilson to Bush

St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral
Silver Spring, MD
7:30 PM
Donations
For information call (202)686-6975

June 13 — Saturday

Official Ending of the Plast activities and Award Presentations

Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian School
Silver Spring, MD
12:30 PM
For information call: Yaromyr Oryshkevych (301)843-3444

June 13,14 — Saturday, Sunday

Commemorative Exhibition of Works by Dr. Jurij Starosolsky

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church
Silver Spring, MD
Opening and Reception: 7:00 PM, Saturday, June 13
Continuation of exhibit: 1:00 - 5:00, Sunday, June 14
For information call: Natalia Zacharczenko (703)978-2871

June 16 — Tuesday

Dr. Juri Gleba

President of the National Ecological Center of Ukraine

Co-sponsored by Ukraine 2000 and the American Forests
7:00 PM
American Forests
1516 P Street, NW
Washington, D. C.
For information call: (202)347-4264

June 18 — Thursday

Ukrainian Folk Emsemble

St. Vladimir's College (Roblin, Manitoba)
Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church
Washington, DC
7:45 PM
Adults \$10.00, children under 5, \$3.00
For information call(202)526-3737

June 24 — Wednesday

Beer Tasting and Seminar at the Brickskeller (see announcement page10)

June 26 — Friday

Jon Keeton

Director of International Research and Development

Peace Corps

"Poets, Planners and Politics"

Gianni Room, 4th floor, Butler Pavilion
American University
Enter through the main entrance on Massachusetts Avenue, continue on the main road, go under the overpass. Immediately after the overpass turn right into the Sports Center Garage. Park on the 4th floor of the garage. The Gianni Room is on the 4th floor of the same building as you parked.
For information call: Lydia Chopivsky-Benson (202)686-6975

June 30 — Tuesday

Ukraine 2000 Annual Meeting

Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church
Washington, DC
7:00 PM
New Members Welcomed
For information call: Nick Babiak (202)347-4264 (day)

July 10th — Friday

Welcoming Banquet for the first Ambassador of

Ukraine to the United States, Oleh Bilorus

St. Andrews Orthodox Cathedral
Silver Spring, MD
7:30 PM

Watch for invitations to the banquet in a separate mailing

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To coordinate community activities and avoid scheduling several events on the same day, Danusia Wasylkiwskyj has agreed to be the Community Calendar Coordinator.

Organization leaders are requested to notify Danusia of their upcoming events, prior to the 15th of each month. This schedule will be published in the TWG NEWS calendar.

Danusia's phone number is (301)652-3938

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DO YOU WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON GROUP?

The Washington Group (TWG) is an association of Ukrainian-American professionals who live throughout the United States and in several countries of the world. It offers its members an opportunity to meet and get to know each other through a variety of professional, educational and social activities. TWG NEWS is a monthly newsletter for TWG members, and a membership directory, published for members only, helps them in networking.

To apply for membership, please fill out the form below and mail with a check to:

The Washington Group, P.O. Box 11248, Washington, D.C. 20008.

(The Board of Directors considers membership applications at its monthly meetings.)

Name _____ Profession _____

Home address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home phone _____

Company _____ Position _____

Business address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Office phone _____

Circle information you would like omitted from the published TWG Directory.

Membership Dues (Please check where appropriate):

\$50 Full Membership

\$35 Associate (Members outside Washington metropolitan area and retirees)

\$15 Full-time students

\$10 Surcharge for foreign addresses (*Payment must be in US Dollars*)

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