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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

U.S. and NATO allies condemn Russian 'land grab' in Ukraine

RFE/RL

The United States and European Union have condemned Russia's formal annexation of Ukraine's Crimea as illegal and vowed they will not recognize it.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, meanwhile, has said the conflict is moving into a "military stage" and that Russian soldiers have opened fire on Ukrainian servicemen.

His statement came as reports from Crimea said a Ukrainian soldier had been shot dead in an attack. Details on what occurred were not immediately clear.

Ukrainian acting President Oleksandr Turchynov released a statement later on March 18 saying Ukrainian servicemen, including those in Crimea, had been authorized to use weapons to defend themselves.

The statement accused Russia of responsibility for "the blood of Ukrainian soldiers."

The soldier's death was the first reported in Crimea since thousands of Russian troops deployed in the territory shortly after former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted from power in late February.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney called the "attempted annexation" of Crimea, signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, a "threat to international peace and security."

He said Washington would impose more sanctions in reaction to the move. "Those actions have incurred costs already," Mr. Carney said. "They have done damage to Russia's economy, to its currency and to its standing in the world. Further actions, further provo-

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Ukrainian government prepares for Russian invasion of mainland

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – The Ukrainian government has begun preparing for a Russian military invasion of Ukraine's mainland after top Russian state officials offered numerous indications of their plans to occupy and federalize Ukraine's southeastern regions after having successfully occupied the Crimean Republic.

The National Security and Defense Council decided at its March 19 meeting to activate Ukraine's Armed Forces into full combat readiness. Two days earlier, the Verkhovna Rada voted to ratify a decree issued the same day by acting President Oleksandr Turchynov to partially mobilize the military and organize the nation's armed forces for a state of war.

The partial mobilization "is stipulated by the continuing aggression in the Crimean Autonomous Republic that Russia is covering up with the grandiose farce under the name of 'referendum,' which will never be recognized by Ukraine or the entire civilized world," said the decree's explanatory note, reported the Interfax-Ukrayina news agency.

The wartime preparations were prompted by Russian soldiers escalating their aggression on Ukrainian territory, which included the killing of a Ukrainian soldier in Symferopol on March 18 and the capture of a natural gas distribution station in the Kherson Oblast on March 15, marking the first incursion into Ukraine beyond Crimea.

During the weekend of March 15-16, pro-Russian protests and clashes erupted throughout southeastern cities in what the Ukrainian government said was a campaign orchestrated by the Russian government with the goal of creating enough unrest and violence to provoke a Russian military invasion.

"The staging of not very numerous, but quite aggressive protests in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk and other cities are being carried out by foreign forces," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said in a video-recorded appeal released on March 18 that was specially directed to the residents of southeastern Ukraine.

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The command ship Slavutych of the Naval Forces of Ukraine, seen docked in Sevastopol on March 13, flies the naval ensign of Ukraine.

INTERVIEW: Sen. Chris Murphy says the U.S. stands with Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Among the biggest supporters of Ukraine to have emerged since the Euro-Maidan began is U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), who paid his second visit to Kyiv last weekend since the launch of the protests in late November.

His first visit was on December 14-15, 2013, during which he visited the now-burned Trade Union Building, which served as the Euro-Maidan's headquarters and from which he watched the Okean Elzy concert on December 14 alongside Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.)

They both addressed the Maidan from its stage the next day.

For his second visit on March 14-15, Sen. Murphy was accompanied by seven fellow senators, Republicans and Democrats, who met with political and civic leaders and visited the dozens of memorials for the fallen heroes that have emerged on the Maidan



Sens. Chris Murphy and John McCain and their Senate colleagues pay their respects at a shrine to the fallen of the Euro-Maidan.

and along Instytutska Street.

Upon his return to the U.S., Sen. Murphy did not echo Sen. McCain's view that the U.S. should be offering military aid to Ukraine, stating that its army doesn't have the capability of handling modern equipment. He said he thinks sanctions against Russian petrochemicals and banks would be more effective.

Sen. Murphy serves as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs and has sponsored three Senate resolutions on Ukraine since December 2013, including condemnation of the Russian invasion of Crimea.

He also has sponsored a bill that was supposed to be voted on March 13 that offers economic aid and imposes sanctions on Russian and Ukrainian officials responsible for the conflict in Ukraine.

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ANALYSIS

Fake 'referendum' in Crimea sets a real watershed for Russia

by Pavel K. Baev
Eurasia Daily Monitor
March 17

The only real result from the hastily organized and crudely manipulated political act in Crimea last Sunday (March 16) – which should not be called a “referendum,” because it had nothing to do with a free expression of popular will – was that it did, indeed, happen. A last-minute postponement would have been awkward for the policy makers in Moscow, but it would have still left them with some freedom of maneuver for checking Russia’s transformation into a “rogue state.”

Instead, now they have to act on their own “choice” for the 2 million inhabitants of Crimea to secede from Ukraine and join the Russian Federation. They have to act quickly before the “patriotic” fervor in Russia, induced by a heavy dose of propaganda, gives way to a painful realization of the material consequences of these actions (<http://polit.ru/article/2014/03/13/accident/>). The Russian authorities are afraid that any back-pedaling would bring this sobering realization closer.

And so the bewildered Europe, which keeps expecting the continent’s largest state to rediscover political common sense, will most probably see the first execution of forceful annexation since the end of World War II already this week.

In the coming days before the legislation on annexing Crimea is approved in

Moscow, it is more or less clear what is going to happen in relations between Russia and the United States-led coalition of the willing, which includes all stakeholders in the European security system. First, the narrow and secretive circle of President Vladimir Putin’s courtiers will be banned from travelling to the European Union and the United States because of their involvement in Russia’s military intervention in Ukraine (Kommersant, March 14). Other personalized sanctions, including the freezing of bank accounts, will be enforced in order to bring home the message that Russian elites, who value their cosmopolitan lifestyle, should start adjusting to their country’s new status of international pariah. Russian oligarchs still think that their fortunes will exempt them from any punishment, but they are taking notice of the misfortune that, last week, befell Ukrainian gas trader Dmytro Firtash in Vienna (<http://www.forbes.ru/mneniya-column/konkurenciya/252012-arest-firtashanovi-povorot-v-gazovoi-voine>).

It is harder to evaluate the impact of the next set of sanctions, which will have to be enforced after Moscow tries to establish the annexation of Crimea as a fait accompli. The Kremlin was obviously under the impression that the disunited West, led by its compromise-oriented politicians, would never be able to agree on a meaningful resistance to Russia’s determined offensive

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Russia can play with several options after plebiscite in Crimea

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor
March 17

The Crimean plebiscite on March 16 was pre-determined – indeed, pre-rigged – to endorse Crimea’s accession to Russia, following Russia’s military occupation of this autonomous republic in Ukraine (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 4, 14).

The two questions on the plebiscite ballot were: 1.) Are you in favor of Crimea’s reunification with Russia as a constituent part of the Russian Federation? or 2.) Are you in favor of restoring the Republic of Crimea’s 1992 constitution, with Crimea’s status as a part of Ukraine? Crimea’s de facto leadership and Moscow campaigned heavily in favor of the first option, clearly pre-judging the plebiscite’s outcome. Notably, the option of some “independent” statehood was from the outset excluded.

But this does not necessarily mean that Moscow will hasten to consummate an unvarnished annexation of Crimea. Russia is strongly placed to temporize and consider options for Russian rule de facto, short of outright annexation, alongside the front-runner option of incorporating Crimea into the Russian Federation.

Each of the available options presents a mix of advantages and disadvantages to Russia. The Kremlin must calculate which course of action in Crimea would most effectively advance Russia’s political objectives in Ukraine as a whole. Moscow’s central objective is to gain acceptance as an arbiter of Ukraine’s internal constitutional arrangements. Russia must also sound out

whether a slight opening toward a negotiated solution on Crimea might dilute the Western sanctions that a blatantly unilateral Russian “solution” is about to trigger.

At this point, Western sanctions threaten to roll forward, driven by moral indignation. Russia knows from experience that such sentiments can be short-lived (they lasted barely one year after Russia’s 2008 invasion of Georgia). In the wake of Crimea, any meaningful Western sanctions would have to be introduced and reliably institutionalized now, before the moral-political momentum dissipates.

Moscow, presumably aware of that, might try to avoid presenting an immediate case of overt territorial annexation. It could falsely signal some degree of Russian “flexibility” by leaving the status of Crimea unclarified, or having it “deferred,” pending eventual determination through negotiations. If Moscow decides to signal, however falsely, that it considers a negotiated status for Crimea, it would need to do so immediately, only to backtrack cynically after a suitable interval.

Russia can easily afford to wait for some months before fully “legislating” Crimea’s incorporation or some other, fig-leaf status for the territory. Moscow can use the March 16 plebiscite as a basis for ruling Crimea de facto, at the same time maintaining some ambiguity about the ultimate political and legal solution. Such ambiguity would also serve Russia to manipulate with the Crimea issue in Ukraine’s domestic politics.

The Kremlin has already set the “legal”

(Continued on page 14)

NEWSBRIEFS

U.N. attempts to defuse crisis

UNITED NATIONS – U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is heading to Russia and Ukraine amid the escalating crisis over Crimea. Mr. Ban’s office said on March 19 that he will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 20, before traveling to Kyiv on March 21 for talks with top Ukrainian officials to push for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Meanwhile, the Security Council has scheduled another meeting – its eighth devoted to the crisis in Ukraine. At the Security Council’s seventh meeting on Ukraine held on March 15, Russia vetoed a resolution that would have declared the referendum in Crimea illegal. Thirteen of the 15 members of the Security Council voted in support of the resolution; China abstained. The U.S. had proposed the resolution on Ukraine, which did not name Russia, but declared the referendum about Crimea to “have no validity.” It affirmed “the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial sovereignty of Ukraine” and urged “all parties” to refrain from “unilateral actions and inflammatory rhetoric.” (RFE/RL, The New York Times)

OSCE chair calls for diplomacy

BERN – Swiss Foreign Affairs Minister and OSCE Chairperson Didier Burkhalter considers the latest steps, taken on March 18 by the Russian Federation regarding the status of Crimea, a breach of fundamental commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and not compatible with international law. These unilateral actions also contradict the Helsinki Final Act, he said. OSCE countries have committed themselves to a security community where each participating state has an equal right to security and none of the OSCE countries should strengthen its security at the expense of the security of other states, Mr. Burkhalter went on. He emphasized that the day’s events must not mark the end of diplomacy to overcome the crisis, and that frank and honest dialogue and determined efforts to build bridges are now more important than ever. The Swiss OSCE chairmanship will continue to pursue its role in this regard, Mr. Burkhalter concluded, calling on all actors to contribute. (OSCE)

Putin OKs draft treaty on Crimea

MOSCOW – The Kremlin said on March 17 that President Vladimir Putin had approved a draft treaty to make Crimea part of Russia. The move came shortly after Mr. Putin formally informed both houses of Parliament of Crimea’s request to become part of Russia – the first legislative step required by the Russian Constitution if the peninsula is to be annexed from Ukraine. On March 17, Mr. Putin recognized Crimea as an independent state in defiance of the international community’s insistence that it remain part of Ukraine. He signed that order just hours after Crimea’s Parliament declared independence from Ukraine and formally applied for membership in the Russian Federation. (RFE/RL)

Putin, Crimean leaders sign treaty

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin and Crimean leaders have signed treaties making Ukraine’s Crimea and the city of Sevastopol part of the Russian Federation. Addressing a special joint session of the Russian Parliament ahead of the signing ceremony on March 18, Mr. Putin said to a standing ovation that “in the hearts and minds of people, Crimea has always been and remains an inseparable part of Russia.” He said Crimea’s secessionist referendum on March 16 was democratic and in full accordance with international law. He said results of the referendum – in which Crimea’s secessionist authorities said 97 percent of voters backed joining Russia – were “fully convincing.” He said Russia “could not ignore the pleas [for help]. We could not leave Crimea and its people in trouble. It would have been nothing short of betrayal.” The treaties were signed on March 18 by President Putin; Crimean Parliament Chairman Vladimir Konstantinov; secessionist Prime Minister Sergei Aksyonov; and Sevastopol’s self-declared mayor, Aleksei Chaly. Mr. Putin also said Russia did not want – and did not “need” – the partition of Ukraine. But he denounced Ukraine’s new leadership for allegedly opening the doors to “nationalists” and “neo-Nazis” and said Russia will always defend the interests of Russians and

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U.S. president: referendum in Crimea 'will not be recognized by international community'

Below is the statement by President Barack Obama delivered on the morning of March 17 in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House.

Good morning, everybody. In recent months, as the citizens of Ukraine have made their voices heard, we have been guided by a fundamental principle – the future of Ukraine must be decided by the people of Ukraine. That means Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected, and international law must be upheld.

And so, Russia's decision to send troops into Crimea has rightly drawn global condemnation. From the start, the United States has mobilized the international community in support of Ukraine to isolate Russia for its actions and to reassure our allies and partners. We saw this interna-

tional unity again over the weekend, when Russia stood alone in the U.N. Security Council defending its actions in Crimea. And as I told President Putin yesterday, the referendum in Crimea was a clear violation of Ukrainian constitutions and international law, and it will not be recognized by the international community.

Today, I'm announcing a series of measures that will continue to increase the cost on Russia and on those responsible for what is happening in Ukraine. First, as authorized by the executive order I signed two weeks ago, we are imposing sanctions on specific individuals responsible for undermining the sovereignty, territorial integrity and government of Ukraine. We're making it clear that there are consequences for their actions.

Second, I have signed a new executive

order that expands the scope of our sanctions. As an initial step, I'm authorizing sanctions on Russian officials – entities operating in the arms sector in Russia and individuals who provide material support to senior officials of the Russian government. And if Russia continues to interfere in Ukraine, we stand ready to impose further sanctions.

Third, we're continuing our close consultations with our European partners, who today in Brussels moved ahead with their own sanctions against Russia. Tonight, Vice-President Biden departs for Europe, where he will meet with the leaders of our NATO allies – Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. And I'll be traveling to Europe next week. Our message will be clear. As NATO allies, we have a solemn commitment to our collective defense, and we will uphold this commitment.

Fourth, we'll continue to make clear to Russia that further provocations will achieve nothing except to further isolate Russia and diminish its place in the world. The international community will continue to stand together to oppose any violations of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, and continued Russian military intervention in Ukraine will only deepen Russia's diplomatic isolation and exact a

greater toll on the Russian economy.

Going forward, we can calibrate our response based on whether Russia chooses to escalate or to de-escalate the situation. Now, I believe there's still a path to resolve this situation diplomatically in a way that addresses the interest of both Russia and Ukraine. That includes Russia pulling its forces in Crimea back to their bases, supporting the deployment of additional international monitors in Ukraine, and engaging in dialogue with the Ukrainian government, which has indicated its openness to pursuing constitutional reform as they move forward towards elections this spring.

But throughout this process, we're going to stand firm in our unwavering support for Ukraine. As I told Prime Minister [Arseny] Yatsenyuk last week, the United States stands with the people of Ukraine and their right to determine their own destiny. We're going to keep working with Congress and our international partners to offer Ukraine the economic support that it needs to weather this crisis and to improve the daily lives of the Ukrainian people.

And as we go forward, we'll continue to look at the range of ways we can help our Ukrainian friends achieve their universal rights and the security, prosperity and dignity that they deserve.

Crimean Tatars appeal to Verkhovna Rada and to Ukrainian citizens of all nationalities

The following statement addressed to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the people of Ukraine – Ukrainian citizens of all nationalities – was released on March 15 by the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people. The English-language text published here was posted on March 16 by Euromaidan PR (translation by Regina Vasko).

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people – the supreme representative body elected by the Crimean Tatar people,

- under conditions of a genuine threat to the safety and freedom of all Crimean Tatars and all Crimean residents regardless of their nationality,
- fully recognizing the magnitude of the unavoidable aftermath of a direct military intervention and plans for the annexation of the Crimea by foreign state,
- acknowledging the utmost responsibility to the present and future generations of the Crimean Tatar people,
- remembering all the losses, humiliations, deprivation and repressions that the Crimean Tatar people sustained since the annexation of the Crimea in 1783, and the loss of their centuries-old statehood,
- in an effort to prevent the recurrence of the genocide of May 18, 1944, when the Crimean Tatar people were forcibly deported from their historical homeland,
- reaffirming the traditional methods of nonviolent struggle for their rights,
- on the basis of the generally recognized norms of the international instruments that guarantee the right to self-determination enshrined in the U.N. Charter, Resolution No. 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly of the U.N. of December 14, 1960, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of December 16, 1966, the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted on October 24, 1970, and other documents,
- on the basis of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of September 13, 2007, which sets out, inter alia: a) the right of indigenous people to self-determination (Article 3); b) the right of indigenous people to autonomy and self-government (Article 4); c) the right of indigenous people to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State of residence (Article 5); d) that military activities shall not take

place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned (Article 30); e) the right of indigenous people to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties (Article 40); f) nothing in this declaration may be interpreted or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States (Article 46),

- based on the Declaration on the National Sovereignty of the Crimean Tatar People adopted by the II Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar People on June 28, 1991,
- believing that the Ukrainian state has not done everything in its power to restore the rights of the Crimean Tatar people and to determine the status of the Crimean Tatars as indigenous people of the Crimea, which has resulted in discriminatory acts towards the Crimean Tatars by the authorities,

We address the people of Ukraine, their representatives in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, with the following:

- 1) We reaffirm our recognition of Ukraine as a sovereign and independent state within the existing borders.
- 2) We strongly condemn the act of aggression by the Russian Federation and their plan for the annexation of the Crimea, considering it as a blatant violation of the international law that destabilizes the existing system of international relations.
- 3) We do not recognize the Crimean referendum of March 16, 2014, aimed at changing the territorial jurisdiction of the Crimea as legitimate under the international laws and the Constitution of Ukraine.
- 4) We categorically reject any attempts to determine the future of the Crimea without the free expression of will by the Crimean Tatar people – the indigenous people of the Crimea.
- 5) The right to decide in which state the Crimean Tatar people should live belongs exclusively to the Crimean Tatars.
- 6) We are convinced that the restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people and the realization of their right to self-determination in their historical homeland should be carried out within the sovereign and independent state of Ukraine.
- 7) We believe that any power in the Crimea should be formed and should operate only under the condition of freely

(Continued on page 18)

Canada's PM: Crimean referendum is 'illegitimate', 'has no legal effect'

The following statement was issued by Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa on March 16.

The so-called referendum held today was conducted with Crimea under illegal military occupation. Its results are a reflection of nothing more than Russian military control.

This "referendum" is illegitimate, it has no legal effect, and we do not recognize its outcome. As a result of Russia's refusal to seek a path of de-escalation, we are working with our G-7 partners and other allies to coordinate additional sanctions against those responsible.

Any solution to this crisis must respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine as well as the Constitution of Ukraine. Mr. Putin's reckless and unilateral actions will lead only to Russia's further economic and political iso-

lation from the international community.

* * *

Prime Minister Harper on March 18 issued the following statement when he announced that Canada had imposed economic sanctions and travel bans against an additional 17 Ukrainian and Russian officials.

Our government is taking a strong stance in our support for Ukraine. We will continue to take action to limit the capabilities of individuals responsible for undermining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and for facilitating Russian military action against Ukraine.

Russia's continuing actions are illegitimate and a deliberate violation of the rights and freedoms of the Ukrainian people. President Putin continues to defy the international community, and until a diplomatic solution is reached, we will consider further actions and repercussions.

Turkey's statement on Crimean referendum

The following press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey, was issued on March 17.

The result of the unlawful and illegitimate "referendum" held in Crimea on Sunday, March 16, 2014, and the de facto situation that will prevail following the steps that will be taken in conjunction with this referendum will not bear any legal validity for Turkey and will not be recognized.

On every occasion, Turkey places a strong emphasis on finding a solution to the crisis in Ukraine on the basis of this country's independence, sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity, within the framework of democratic principles, and in accordance with law and international agreements.

Turkey attaches special importance and priority to the security and welfare of our kinsmen the Crimean Tatars, who are an essential element of Crimea and have been subjected to great sufferings in history. This has been particularly emphasized by Turkey in international organizations at every turn.

We consider that the developments that may take place in Ukraine and especially Crimea in the near future can also have negative effects on security and stability of our region. In this framework, we draw attention once again to the fact that creating faits accomplis by military means is extremely inimical, and we call on the parties to come together with a view to finding a political solution to the problem on the basis of the above-mentioned principles.

Obama's Boston visit draws Ukrainian protesters

by Peter T. Woloschuk

BOSTON – President Barack Obama spent four hours in the Boston area in the afternoon of March 5 at two events raising funds for the Democratic National Committee and was faced by local community pickets, who braved temperatures that dropped to single digits after sunset, demanding that the United States step up its aid to Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.

The president came to Boston from New Britain, Conn., where he has pressed for an increase in the minimum wage. There too he was met by Ukrainian demonstrators.

The first event in the Boston area was at the Charles Hotel near Harvard Square in Cambridge and consisted of a roundtable



Vitaliy Moroz

Pickers urge President Barack Obama, who was visiting the Boston area, to protect Ukraine from Russia's aggression.

discussion for 25 Democratic activists who spent \$35,000 apiece to spend two hours with the president. Picketers were primarily students who came from Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Emerson College, Boston University and other neighboring institutions. The president waved at the group as he rode by.

Later, a dinner was held for the president and 75 major contributors to the Democratic National Committee at the Artists for Humanity Epicenter in South Boston. Here again there were pickets armed with Ukrainian and American flags who demanded firmer action from President Obama.

Both pickets were covered by local media.

Ukrainians picket Obama at university speech



Natalia Szwez holds a sign asking passers-by to "Pray for Ukraine" during the rally on March 5 at Central Connecticut State University.

by Alexander Kuzma

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – A large contingent of Ukrainian Americans held a rally on the campus of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain on March 5 to demand that President Barack Obama defend Ukraine and impose sanctions on Russia for its unlawful invasion of Crimea.

Demonstrators gathered at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, located about one mile from the Central Connecticut State University, campus and marched to Kaiser Auditorium, where the president delivered

a speech on raising the minimum wage.

During the rally, demonstrators distributed leaflets to the long line of students, faculty and guests waiting to attend Mr. Obama's speech. They sang the Ukrainian national anthem and chanted "Sanctions yes! Putin no!"

The rally received extensive news coverage in the statewide press, including photos and articles in the Hartford Courant, the New Britain Herald, the Waterbury Republican and WNPR, and television coverage on Connecticut's CBS, NBC, ABC and Fox stations.

Albany Ukrainians protest at area's Lukoil gas stations



ALBANY, N.Y. – Local Ukrainians demonstrated on March 15 at the area's Lukoil gas stations to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In Watervliet, some 50 protesters gathered at the Lukoil station on 18th Street and Second Avenue. The group received support from the passing public with honks and thumbs-up gestures. In addition, several patrons of Lukoil who pulled in left without filling their gas tanks. At the Albany New Scotland Station, three protesters received many signs of support from local traffic and were told that business had increased at the next-door Mobil station. Small demonstrations also took place at two Lukoil stations in Schenectady.

– Andrij Baran



Philadelphia community says: 'Don't support Putin's war effort'



Andrea Fylypovych

PHILADELPHIA – Philadelphia-area Ukrainian community activists demonstrated in front of the Lukoil gas station on City Line Avenue in Bala Cynwyd, Pa., on March 15. The message delivered to passers-by and drivers via megaphone: "Lukoil supports Putin's war effort, don't buy Russian gas."

TARAS SHEVCHENKO BICENTENNIAL

Stand strong and you will overcome!

The statement below, issued by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, was received on March 10.

This year, as we commemorate the 200th anniversary of our national prophet, Taras Shevchenko, we must remember that Shevchenko endured the hardships of servitude, bondage and national censorship. In his works, Shevchenko voices the cries of the oppressed, and with his fiery words highlights the multidimensionality of social and national drama, representing the Ukrainian nation in all its various forms.

Shevchenko urges the people to love their homeland:

*Love your Ukraine,
Love her in turbulent times,
In the last most difficult moment,
Pray to the Lord for Her.*

And while urging Ukrainians to love their homeland, Shevchenko writes with pain-filled words about the destruction of Ukrainian society under foreign, mainly Muscovite, rule.

Shevchenko recognized the problem of the Ukrainian nation not only in foreign occupation. It pained him to write about the nation's traitors for whom there was nothing sacred and who used the people for their own advantage. It is about these traitors that Shevchenko wrote:

*People! People! For a piece of rotten sausage
you would give up your own Mother.*

Like the prophet Jeremiah, Shevchenko wept over the ruins of his country, whose people failed to defend their rights. Examining the tragic life of the Ukrainian people Shevchenko wrote,

We looked on in silence... like mute slaves!

To them Shevchenko appealed in his work "Epistle" addressed: "To the dead, the living and the unborn," he called them to:

*"Come to your senses, you fools! ...
Come to your senses! Be decent people -
otherwise it will be bad for you.
The fettered will soon become unchained
and the time for judgment will come!*

And Shevchenko, as the unsparing critic, at the same time is almost divine in his love that conquers the despair of the injured soul which seeks mercy and a bright future. He is a poet of words, truth, freedom, glory and love. And the word within his creative arsenal is the weapon that he uses in the battle for a better future for his people. Shevchenko emphasizes the meaning of words as a weapon in defense of his ill-fated nation, when he writes:

*I shall arise today! For them!
For my imprisoned people...
and in their defense I will place the word.*

It is now, in the 200th anniversary year of the birth of Shevchenko, that his words become weapons on the Euro-Maidans of Ukraine and particularly in Crimea, where the people stand in defense of their civil and national rights against Russia's tyrannical and unprovoked invasion. May the words of Ukraine's greatest bard, Taras Shevchenko, continue to inspire the world to stand unified and strong with the freedom-loving people of Ukraine against oppressors and international criminals like Vladimir Putin.

Connecticut Ukrainians honor Taras Shevchenko

HARTFORD, Conn. - The Ukrainian American Community of Greater Hartford commemorated the 200th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birth (March 9, 1814) with a Ukrainian cultural program at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford on Sunday, March 9.

Over 300 guests filled the main hall for the program featuring students from St. Michael Ukrainian School, the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble, the Halychanka Ukrainian Choir and the Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

A memorial wall to honor the heroes of the Maidan was erected in the main hall. FoxCT News aired a report on the 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts that evening.

Canadians celebrate Shevchenko anniversary

The release below, from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, was received on March 9.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) invites Ukrainian Canadians to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, poet, painter and humanist, as we join the world in dedicating 2014 as the Year of Shevchenko. March 9 has been a special day of gathering and remembrance among Ukrainians for many decades, celebrating the birth of Ukraine's bard recognized for his significant artistic work and contributions to the formation of a Ukrainian national identity. This year we invite our community to undertake commemorative events and projects throughout this special bicentennial year.

Few men have had a more profound impact on Ukraine than Taras Shevchenko; his contributions are immeasurable. During the 47 years of his brief but relentless life, Shevchenko produced numerous poems and artworks, which are valued and respected by nations around the world. His most prominent work "Zapovit" (Testament) was translated into over 100 languages. And today, as the citizens of Ukraine rise up in the name of democracy, freedom

and their right to self-determination, the words of Taras Shevchenko remain close to their and our hearts. Shevchenko's poetry contributed to the growth of Ukrainian national consciousness, and his influence on Ukrainian intellectual, literary and national life is still felt to this day.

As the entire year of 2014 will be devoted to the recognition of Taras Shevchenko, the UCC encourages community organizations to remember the impact of Shevchenko's work throughout the year and commemorate his life and legacy through art, word and song.

"We encourage our community, particularly our youth, to be involved in events remembering Shevchenko," says UCC President Paul Grod. "This year is about commemoration and continuing Shevchenko's legacy by creating new works of art or written word about what this world-renowned poet means to us today."

We also invite you to share video vignettes and photographs of your events and activities on our special Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UCCShevchenko200. This site has been established to help promote your events as well as share with communities around the world the activities of our Ukrainian Canadian community.



Members of the Ukrainian community in Washington gather in front of the Taras Shevchenko monument in observance of the 200th anniversary of his birth.

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON - The 200th anniversary of Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko's birthday has been and continues to be honored throughout the month of March at various events in this capital area - in front of his memorial, which this year also marks its 50th anniversary, and other venues.

These community-wide Shevchenko celebrations began on Sunday afternoon, March 9 - his birthday - at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, Va., where Ukrainian American pianist Thomas Hrynkiw honored the Ukrainian poet laureate's memory with a program of works not too frequently heard here by eight Ukrainian composers.

At the outset, Svitlana Shiells, the director of The Washington Group Cultural Fund, which sponsored the concert, led the audience in reciting Shevchenko's "Testament" in Ukrainian and in English, then added the context of his birthday anniversary happening at this time of dramatic historic developments in Ukraine.

Mr. Hrynkiw began his program with "Ukrainka" by Shevchenko's contemporary Ukrainian composer Iosyf Vytvytsky, and continued with works by Lev Revutsky, Viktor Kosenko, Mykola Lysenko and Nestor Nyzhankivsky.

Born into a family of Ukrainian immigrants who came to Pennsylvania in search of work early in the last century, Mr. Hrynkiw also shared a story about the early years of his youth, how he was attracted to piano playing and how he happened to get his hands on some of the old notes by Ukrainian composers he played that afternoon.

Another recollection of being born and growing up in a

Ukrainian American immigrant family and being introduced to Shevchenko's poetry was shared during intermission by the Rev. Wasyl Kharuk of the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington, who then emotionally recited Shevchenko's "I was born in a foreign land."

The second half of the program featured two preludes by Vasyl Barvinsky, Stanislav Liudkevich's "Humoresque," Mykola Lysenko's "Moment of Despair" and Borys Liatoshynsky's "Cry for Freedom." Then, concluding the concert, everybody joined in singing the Ukrainian national anthem.

After a brief reception, some in the audience drove into downtown Washington to the Shevchenko memorial for an evening of song and recitation of Shevchenko's poems in honor of his anniversary. The program included the recitation of his "Testament" in Ukrainian and English, as well as in a number of Ukraine's neighboring European languages, as well as in Russian by some members of the Yale University Russian Choir who also sang Shevchenko's "Reve ta Stohne Dnipro Shyrokyi" (The Mighty Dnipro Roars).

Later in the week, there was a surprise visit to the Shevchenko monument on March 13 by Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who came here for talks with President Barack Obama, the secretary of state and other U.S. government officials and leaders of Congress.

The Washington Group Cultural Fund will hold another Shevchenko commemoration event on March 28 at the Embassy of Ukraine: a book presentation by Peter Fedynsky of his English translation of the poet's work, "The Complete Kobzar: The Poetry of Taras Shevchenko."

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The Russian invasion continues

The political farce that was the Crimean "referendum" of March 16 has been declared illegitimate by the United States and other Western powers. According to various news reports, the voter turnout was more than 83 percent and some 97 percent voted for Crimea to join the Russian Federation. Of course, they did so under duress, as Russian forces occupied the Ukrainian peninsula. And then there is the question of who exactly voted. Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians who live on the peninsula, and those Russians and others who wanted to remain part of Ukraine, largely boycotted the vote, which they saw as unconstitutional and predetermined. But there were "political tourists" in Crimea who apparently were allowed to vote. Tellingly, there were reports that 123 percent of Sevastopol's residents voted.

The U.S. and the European Union reacted by announcing new sanctions directed against leaders in Russia, Crimea and Ukraine. "Today's actions," the U.S. said in a March 17 statement, "send a strong message to the Russian government that there are consequences for their actions that violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including their actions supporting the illegal referendum for Crimean separation." However, those sanctions amounted to, as *The Washington Post* put it, "a slap on the wrist" for Russia. Indeed, some of those sanctioned reacted by mocking the U.S. measures. On March 20, more sanctions were announced against individuals, as well as one Russian bank, in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea.

But what is missing, still, is the strong response Ukraine expected in view of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum that provided security guarantees to Ukraine in exchange for Ukraine's decision to rid itself of nuclear weapons – at that time the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world. (The message being sent worldwide each day the memorandum is ignored is that it is foolish to denuclearize when your partners can guarantee nothing.)

The U.S. is reassuring its NATO allies who are concerned about Russia's actions in the neighborhood – as President Barack Obama said, "we have a solemn commitment to our collective defense, and we will uphold this commitment." But the U.S. is not reassuring Ukraine, its strategic partner, that it will act to halt its dismemberment by Russia. Thus far, the U.S. has said the right things. "Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected, and international law must be upheld," Mr. Obama said, and he condemned "Russia's decision to send troops into Crimea." But U.S. actions have had zero effect. What is quite disconcerting is that Mr. Obama revealed his cards by saying outright on March 19, "We are not going to be getting into a military excursion in Ukraine."

Meanwhile in Ukraine, former Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S. Oleh Shamshur was quoted on March 20 by the Voice of America as saying said the Ukrainian government is pressing for three things: stronger sanctions targeting the Russian economy, "mak[ing] it really painful for the ruling regime in Russia"; military technical preparation "because our army is in pretty bad shape"; and enhanced cooperation "to prop up the Ukrainian economy."

Ukrainian community members from our area, meeting on March 20 with their congressman, Rodney Frelinghuysen, suggested that the U.S. and its allies take these steps: designate Ukraine as a Major Non-NATO Ally; provide the immediate military assistance being sought by Kyiv; meet with Ukraine's representatives during the NATO foreign ministers meeting on April 1-2; extend a NATO Membership Action Plan to Ukraine; and move up the joint NATO-Ukraine exercises scheduled to take place in July. Time is of the essence.

Our Kyiv correspondent reports that the Ukrainian government has begun preparing for a Russian military invasion of Ukraine's mainland after top Russian officials offered numerous indications of their plans to occupy and federalize Ukraine's southeastern regions (read his story beginning on page 1). And, speaking from Brussels on March 19, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said he believed Russia would not stop at Crimea. "It's crystal clear for us that Russian authorities will try to move further and escalate the situation in southern and eastern Ukraine."

The Russian invasion continues. The world must act now to stop Mr. Putin.

March
25
1939

Turning the pages back...

Seventy-five years ago, on March 25, 1939, *The Ukrainian Weekly* reported on the annexation of western Ukraine (known as Carpatho-Ukraine) by Hungary after Hungarian troops invaded during the previous week in 1939. But this action was met with "the strongest resistance by its inhabitants, especially their defense corps, the Ukrainian Sich Guards, who ill-armed and

untrained have nevertheless fought the invaders every foot of the way and are continuing the fight to this very day."

The Associated Press dispatch from Bratislava, Slovakia, reported that Hungarians were meeting strong resistance from hundreds of Ukrainians. Thousands were reported to be living lives as Robin Hoods in the Carpathian Mountains in their fight against the annexation. "In the Theresia valley ... Ukrainians have entrenched themselves strongly with plenty of machine guns and ammunition, and an ample food supply, because of available game."

Prior to the annexation, Hungary assured the Ukrainians that under its rule they would enjoy the fullest autonomy. However, American press reports detailed oppressions and denationalization of the Ukrainians. Hungarian rhetoric included references to "Sub-Carpathian Russia" and that "Russian is the dominant language," despite it being clearly Ukrainian. Official announcements were printed in Hungarian and Russian, but not Ukrainian, the Russian flag was raised in Uzhhorod, and uniformed Russians were becoming increasingly active in the city, regarded as the capital of Carpatho-Ukraine.

The purpose of all of this was "To hinder the chances of the Carpatho-Ukrainians of cooperating with their kinsmen under Poland, the Soviet Union and Romania toward the goal of a free and independent Ukraine."

But this did little to change the drive for Ukrainian national freedom, for Ukraine had

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COMMENTARY

Don't just sanction Russia, deter it

by Job C. Henning
and William Courtney

The initial Western response to Russian aggression in Crimea has emphasized diplomacy and economic measures, and a temporary show of military support to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies bordering on the former Soviet Union. With Russian forces now occupying some positions in the southern mainland and massing on Ukraine's eastern border, stronger – and permanent – U.S. and NATO defense measures are required to deter Russian aggression and raise its costs. There will be no return to a Cold War, but Russia is now a military adversary, even as it remains a partner in other pursuits such as the International Space Station.

Without robust military steps, the West cannot achieve the two ambitious goals the White House defined on March 6: the pull-back of Russia's military forces to their bases and the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity. Further, a weak response would risk escalation of Russian aggression against its neighbors, and undermine the confidence of U.S. allies and friends in America's policy of extended deterrence. One or more of them might conclude that they have to pursue their own nuclear weapons programs.

Earlier this month, the Lithuanian ambassador to the U.S. voiced concern about the viability of NATO's Article 5 guarantee, i.e., that an attack on one means an attack on all. A credible military response to Russian aggression will be important to quelling such doubts.

In December 1994, in return for Ukraine's agreeing to give up remaining Soviet-era nuclear weapons, the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom signed the Budapest Memorandum, pledging to respect the borders of Ukraine and abstain from the use or threat of force against it. In addition, nuclear powers France and China provided unilateral security guarantees. In 2009, Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev reaffirmed the Budapest pledge. The Western guarantors must now make good on their solemn commitment.

The West has taken temporary but important military steps, including added combat aircraft support to a NATO Baltic air policing mission and the dispatch of sophisticated airborne warning and control aircraft to Poland and Romania. The AWACs deployment will improve air situational awareness over Ukraine and increase some warning times.

An effective Western military response to Russia's aggression, however, must be more forceful and have a lasting effect.

One place to begin is by revisiting the wishful 2010 NATO Strategic Concept. It expresses a desire to pursue a "true strategic partnership" with Russia, while making no mention of its posing adversarial risks. This thinking appeared to ignore Russia's

*Job Henning is non-resident senior fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress and a Truman Project fellow. William Courtney was U.S. ambassador to Kazakhstan and Georgia, and special assistant to the president for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia. Their commentary appeared on March 18 in *The National Interest* (<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/dont-just-sanction-russia-deter-it-10070>). It is reprinted here with the authors' permission.*

cyber attack on Estonia in 2007 and the invasion of Georgia in 2008; the Kremlin's new strategic doctrine in 2010 that falsely claims one of the "main external threats of war" is NATO's expansion eastward to Russia's border; and Moscow's persistent but inaccurate characterization of NATO theater missile defenses as threatening Russia's nuclear forces.

To reduce risks to Ukraine, Georgia and other Black Sea littoral neighbors of Russia, France should announce that it will not deliver the two modern, large helicopter assault Mistral-class ships it is building for Russia as long as its troops occupy neighboring territory. One ship is planned for delivery to the Russian Black Sea fleet in 2016.

The West should provide more and immediate defense aid to Ukraine and Georgia. Early priorities ought to be intelligence sharing on nearby Russian forces, technology for cyber defense, and systems for secure command and control. Anti-armor and anti-aircraft weapons would help these countries deter and defend against invasion. America should provide them to deter Russian forces poised along the Ukrainian border. Media reports say Ukraine's interim government asked for U.S. weaponry, but the request was deferred. A CNN poll in early March found that just over three-quarters of U.S. respondents oppose providing military support to Ukraine, no doubt reinforcing Washington's hesitancy. As the consequences of Russian aggression sink in, and if it widens, sentiments may change.

To build further confidence in NATO's collective-security commitments to members in its eastern area, Washington should return to Europe a third brigade combat team. If requested by Poland, it ought to be based there. Anxiety there is high – and with reason. In suspending Russia's observance of the Conventional Forces in Europe Agreement in 2007, President Vladimir Putin expressed a possible need to mass conventional forces on the border of new NATO members, particularly Poland. An augmented NATO position in Poland now would bolster deterrence and incur fewer risks than if in the future Mr. Putin follows through on his warning.

Non-Black Sea NATO states should increase their warship rotational presence in the sea, consistent with the Montreux Convention limitation on each of them of three ships and 21-day stays. While respecting Turkish sensitivities, NATO might review the relevance of the convention's limits. Warship deployments could support NATO contingency planning for any escalation of Russian aggression, such as the use of its Black Sea Fleet to intimidate shipping that uses Odesa and other ports of littoral states.

At its summit in September, NATO ought to deepen its ties with Georgia, which seeks to join NATO, and Ukraine, which might now want a closer link or membership. Georgia has met key criteria for defense reform, civilian control, and free and fair elections. America's multi-year train-and-equip program has sharpened Georgian military skills and confidence. NATO members have conducted many years of military training and exercises with Ukraine.

In response to Russian aircraft flights near Turkey, its air force has scrambled fighters to patrol the Black Sea coast. NATO

(Continued on page 14)

UCC denounces Crimean “referendum” as unconstitutional, illegal, illegitimate

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress issued the following release on March 18.

The “referendum” that took place in Crimea Sunday [March 16] under the illegal occupation of Russian armed forces who have invaded sovereign Ukrainian territory is unconstitutional, illegal and illegitimate. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine ruled the “referendum” to be in breach of several provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine. The “referendum” is also a breach of international law, and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress rejects its results.

The prime minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, stated that: “This ‘referendum’ is illegitimate, it has no legal effect, and we do not recognize its outcome. As a result of Russia’s refusal to seek a path of de-escalation, we are working with our G-7 partners and other allies to coordinate additional sanctions against those responsible.”

The “referendum” was not recognized by Canada, the United States or the states of the European Union. Russian President Putin signed a decree Monday [March 17] recognizing Crimea as an independent state.

“Mr. Putin has once again shown his contempt for Ukraine’s territorial integrity and independence. In addition to Russia’s invasion of Crimea, there are provocations and threats of military intervention in eastern and southern Ukraine. These present a significant threat to Ukraine’s statehood and European security. The international community must act decisively to prevent a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine,” stated Paul Grod, national president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

The UCC welcomes the decision by Canada to impose additional economic sanctions and travel bans against Russian and Ukrainian officials responsible for undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and for facilitating Russian military action against Ukraine. In addition to the sanctions announced by Canada today, the United States and the EU announced sanctions against such officials.

The UCC expresses its deep admiration for those serving in Ukraine’s armed forces, who have acted with bravery and honor in the face of severe pressure from a foreign occupying power.

UCCA does not recognize “referendum” in Crimea

The statement below, dated March 17, was released by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization for the over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, does not recognize the March 16, 2014, plebiscite in Crimea. As this so-called “referendum” was unconstitutional as per the Constitution of Ukraine and in direct violation of international law, there can be no consideration of alleged “results.”

Considering the massive presence of foreign military and paramilitary forces, it must be acknowledged that individuals were made to participate in the polling under duress after the invasion of Ukraine’s territory by the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

The farce that is being called a “referendum” cannot even be considered a scientific sociological poll. There is evidence of non-citizens casting ballots, individuals casting more than one ballot and an alleged participant rate of 123 percent in the city of Sevastopol – acts reminiscent of the Soviet era.

The UCCA welcomes President Barack Obama’s executive order imposing sanctions on the Russian Federation, his support for international condemnation of the so called “referendum” in Crimea and the readiness of the government of the United States to “help our Ukrainian friends achieve their universal rights and the security, prosperity and dignity that they deserve.”

As Russian forces continue to amass on the Eastern border of Ukraine, while internal propaganda through official Russian media outlets heightens the call for “protection” of ethnic Russians in Ukraine to fever pitch, the UCCA calls on the United States and the international community to:

- Designate Ukraine as Major Non-NATO

Ally (MNNA);

- Extend an immediate NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) to Ukraine, Georgia and other countries in the region to solidify Euro-Atlantic structures;

- Move up planned July bi-annual joint NATO-Ukraine exercises;

- Stand up NATO Crisis Centers to full manning and bring the NATO Response Force to a higher state of alert;

- Deploy international monitors from the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to eastern and southern Ukraine to prevent further destabilization;

- Assist Ukraine’s military with technical assistance and provide military experts to strengthen its forces from further Russian aggressive measures;

- Re-institute the Missile Defense Shield in Central Europe to provide a first level of protection for our allies from imposing threats;

- Expel Russia from the G-8 and convene the G-7 in an allied location, or symbolically in Ukraine;

- Suspend the Russian Federation from multilateral organizations such as the WTO [World Trade Organization], OSCE and the like if it does not heed all the legitimate calls to comply with the international obligations of said organizations;

- Freeze Russia’s membership applications to OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] and other international organizations;

- Sail the United States *6th Fleet* into the Black Sea.

The United States must stand strong in defense of Ukraine’s territorial integrity. Vladimir Putin’s continued recalcitrance and blatant occupation of a sovereign country – if not countered – will undermine the very foundation of international law, as well as regional and global peace and security.

FOR THE RECORD

Ukrainian American Bar Association denounces Crimean referendum

The commentary below was released by the Ukrainian American Bar Association on March 13.

The upcoming referendum in Crimea as well as the circumstances surrounding the referendum as created by Russia and its local agents are an outrageous violation of the civilized norms of international behavior developed and adopted after World War II. More specifically, such conduct is illegal, illegitimate and immoral.

The referendum is illegal most fundamentally because under the Ukrainian Constitution no portion of Ukraine has the right on its own and by itself to conduct a referendum regarding secession. Then, the antecedent invasion and occupation of Crimea by Russia was itself illegal. Pursuant to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances to Ukraine, Ukraine agreed to surrender its nuclear arsenal in return for written assurances by Russia, the United States and Britain that, among other things, Ukraine’s territorial integrity would be inviolate.

Russia now has not only failed to perform under its pledged assurance but has itself carried out an invasion and occupation of a portion of Ukrainian territory. This invasion and occupation also violates the Charter of the United Nations, to which Russia and Ukraine are signatories, which requires all member states to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other state.

The referendum is illegitimate because it will be carried out under circumstances that are laughably prejudicial. To begin, the choices posed by the referendum have been rigged so that a voter cannot vote against secession and in favor of continued integration within Ukraine; instead, the voter will only be able to choose unification with

Russia or an option that would result in purported Crimean independence. Second, occupying Russian forces have prevented any outside international observers from entering Crimea. Third, the referendum will be conducted while Crimea is filled with Russian tanks and troops. And, fourth, the referendum will be conducted while Russian-supported thugs have been terrorizing pro-Ukrainian segments of the Crimean population with beatings and kidnappings.

The referendum, invasion and occupation are also immoral, this because of who the perpetrator is and who the victim is here. Today’s Russia is the proud successor state of the Soviet Union, the very same Soviet Union whose leaders committed mass murder and other crimes against Ukrainian humanity by, for example, deliberately starving millions of Ukrainian peasants during the Holodomor of 1932-1933, executing hundreds of thousands of Ukraine’s elites, destroying the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and then the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and committing numerous other predations. The same Soviet Union in whose concentration camp Vasyl Stus died as recently as 1985 after spending 23 years in Soviet detention for the crime of writing patriotic Ukrainian poetry and standing up for Ukrainian cultural and linguistic rights.

Lastly, it is also ironic in a perverse sort of way that Russia and its local agents have posted referendum billboards in Crimea juxtaposing a purported “Nazi” Ukraine with a Russian Ukraine given that in 1939-1941 it was none other than the Soviet Union that was Hitler’s close partner in perpetrating what Yale historian Timothy Snyder has termed the “Bloodlands” and its full partner in starting World War II by jointly and in full coordination attacking and dismembering Poland.

This statement was authored by UABA member Bohdan Vitvitsky, J.D., Ph.D.

About Russia’s disinformation campaign regarding Ukrainian language policy

The commentary below was released by the Ukrainian American Bar Association on March 4.

The Russian government is deceitfully attempting to justify its invasion of Ukraine under a pretext that ethnic Russians who reside in Ukraine are discriminated against because of their use of the Russian language and their ethnic background. The Kremlin disingenuously claims that the new Ukrainian government recently passed legislation “banning” the Russian language. The Kremlin’s disinformation campaign is clearly intended to foment ethnic tensions and destabilize Ukraine. Regrettably, Western media has been blindly reciting this disinformation as if it were fact without doing any due diligence whatsoever as to its accuracy.

The “Ukrainian Law on Language Policy” was unconstitutionally adopted in July of 2012 and signed by then President Viktor Yanukovich. High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), told the Ukrainian Parliament that the 2012 legislation did not meet European standards since its “approach to language policy is deeply divisive and is likely to lead to future polariza-

tion of society. Indeed, the disproportionate favoring of the Russian language, while also removing most incentives for learning or using Ukrainian in large parts of the country, could potentially undermined Ukraine’s very cohesion.” Mr. Vollebaek, also expressed his concern that the 2012 legislation was not properly adopted in accordance with existing Ukrainian constitutional and procedural law.

Prior to its alleged passage, the 2012 “Ukrainian Law on Language Policy” law was severely criticized by leading Ukrainian legal scholars, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and other institutes of higher learning and numerous ministries within the Yanukovich government itself, as divisive and failing to protect the rights of all Ukrainians irrespective of their ethnic background.

The Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, in reviewing the 2012 “Ukrainian Law on Language Policy” legislation in comparison to European standards, stated that it failed to provide a proper balance between the development and use of a state language as a unifying factor in society and the development and protection of

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Sen. Chris Murphy...

(Continued from page 1)

He spoke with The Weekly on the morning of March 15 at the Intercontinental Hotel in the heart of Kyiv. Sen. Murphy expressed confidence that the House and Senate would approve the financial aid and sanctions legislation early this week, but that has yet to happen.

* * *

The last time you were here [in December 2013] there was a rock concert on the Maidan. Now there are memorials to fallen heroes. What are your impressions of the distinctions between now and then?

It was incredibly moving to be there yesterday and to think about hundreds of thousands of people who have been part of the transition from a very celebratory day, when we were here in December with a million people on the square, to today when the atmosphere is still part celebration, but also one of mourning as well. I really have a sense of awe for what people went through to get to this moment.

I'll leave with the impression that it's more important than ever now that the United States stand with Ukraine to make sure that this journey to independence, sovereignty and a corruption-free government is completed.

I don't know how much you're familiar with this, but there's an intense information war going on. Even in the U.S. media, there are all kinds of alternative sources of news. I now understand why they're alternative, because they're not entirely accurate. The Russian nar-



Members of the bipartisan delegation of U.S. senators walk toward the Maidan.

ative paints this picture of the West sending CIA agents into Ukraine, having planned for this revolt a long time ago, training Ukrainians and supplying them with AK-47s. This is promoted quite widely. From your perspective, just how far from reality is that?

The Russians have invested a lot of time and money in their propaganda machine, but I hope that no one's paying attention to it here. I certainly know that people aren't paying attention to it in the international community. For anyone who's spent any time on the Maidan in the last two to three months, it's laughable to think that that movement was anything other than organic.

But Russia is deeply fearful of a free and sovereign Ukraine. They are deeply fearful of a flourishing democracy on their borders. So Russia is going to do anything, say anything in order to stop the Maidan from reaching its logical conclusion, which is a Ukraine that's sovereign, free and oriented towards Europe.

There's a widely held belief in Kyiv that Russia's goal is not so much to conquer Ukraine in the 19th century sense, but to create enough chaos here to prevent the new government from getting its foundations set. And to create enough instability to force the West to withdraw or throw up its hands and say, "It's not worth it anymore." Do you agree with that assessment, that there's a threat the West will be forced to surrender in Ukraine in the mid to long term?

This isn't a fight between Russia and the West. This is a question of whether the Ukrainian people get to decide for themselves about their future. We met with a number of members of the new government, as well as activists from the Maidan. We'll meet more people today. Everyone we've met with told us in very clear terms that they are not going to allow Russian aggression to dictate terms to the Ukrainian people.

Ukraine, by and large, wants an orientation towards Europe. I think the media wants to reconstruct the Cold War

because it's a very easy narrative. This isn't a proxy war between East and West, between the U.S. and the EU and Russia. This is about whether or not the Ukrainian people get to decide for themselves their future. Russia is using every tool it has, including unconscionable levels of military force, to try to dictate terms to the Ukrainian people.

When Sen. McCain and I were here in December, we stood on the Maidan not telling the Ukrainian people what we thought their future should be, but supporting their right to grieve their government and decide their fate for themselves. I understand it's convenient to think about this fight in terms of East versus West, but this is really about whether Ukrainians get to decide for themselves what their future is.

What legislative efforts have you been involved in?

The Foreign Relations Committee passed by a wide bipartisan margin last week an aid and sanctions package. It's \$1 billion in loan guarantees and very strong sanctions against the Russian government. We're going to get that bill passed through the House and Senate in the coming weeks. Our job is not done until we've delivered along with Europe a package of aid to Ukraine to keep their economy moving through this turbulent time and a package of sanctions against Russia that makes it clear that there are consequences for their actions.

Who's to blame for the legislation not getting passed this week?

I don't think it's worthwhile to get involved in a blame game because we're ultimately going to pass the legislation. There's wide bipartisan agreement that we should move forward on an aid package and a sanctions package. We tried to pass the bill on Thursday afternoon. There was a Republican objection on the floor, but Sen. [Harry] Reid made clear that the first thing we take up when we come back at the beginning of next week will be the bill that we voted out of the Foreign Relations Committee.

I think people have seen from our visit here this week that there's unanimity between the Democrats and Republicans in the Senate that we're going to pass a strong Ukraine assistance bill through the Senate very soon.

The issue of sanctions against Russia is uncharted territory in the sense that the target now is the closer entourage of Putin, very influential businessmen. Do we know whether they'll be effective or not?

I think it's impossible to predict what will change the mind of a single individual in Vladimir Putin. But we can deliver a serious blow to the Russian economy and to the circle of advisors and friends and oligarchs around Putin. There's no doubt about that, if we move sanctions in coordination with our European allies.

Who knows whether that's going to change his mind. But I believe that he marched on Crimea because he didn't believe that there was going to be an economic price to be paid from the U.S. and Europe. At this moment, we have to call his bluff and make it clear that this action doesn't come without consequences.

The pandemonium that will ensue if we allow Russia to unilaterally change its borders is hard to overestimate. This is an issue that every single nation in the world should care about, Europe first and foremost, but the U.S. not far behind.

The FBI requested the arrest of an influential Ukrainian oligarch. Are such arrests and criminal prosecutions a potential tool in the future? [The Austrian government arrested billionaire natural gas trader Dmytro Firtash on March 13 at the request of the FBI. He remained imprisoned in Austria as of March 20 with bail set at \$172 million.]

We don't use our law enforcement process as a diplomatic tool. We pursue lawbreakers regardless of what the international consequences are. I don't foresee the FBI being used as a tool to influence Russia. I think that's what sanctions are for.

That's the impression that some analysts at investment banks have been giving. But you're saying that could be their interpretation, maybe, but it's not the U.S. government policy to use law enforcement organs to influence foreign policy.

I wouldn't be shocked to see other such arrests in the coming weeks and months, but it's not the policy of the U.S. to use law enforcement as a diplomatic tool.

What are your impressions of the efforts of the Ukrainian community in the U.S., and what could they be doing in the coming weeks to positively influence events?

I've become a champion for the Ukrainian cause in large part because of the very active Ukrainian American community in Connecticut. I really can't imagine what more the Ukrainian American community can be doing. Sen. [Dick] Durbin is here this week because of the large Ukrainian

American community in Illinois. I'm here because of the big Ukrainian American community in Connecticut.

At this time last year, I didn't know much about this part of the world. It's been through the education of the Ukrainian diaspora in Connecticut that I've been able to step up and lead on this issue over the course of this conflict and this crisis. To the extent that many of us have been effective in promoting the cause of a free, independent and sovereign Ukraine, it's been because of the advocacy and education that we've gotten from the Ukrainian American community in the U.S.

And what could they be doing?

There is still a minority of members in Congress who hold relatively isolationist views, who don't think the U.S. has an interest in this region. They are a minority of members. I think we'll be able to get a Ukrainian aid package passed through the House and Senate. The Ukrainian American community has to seek out those members of Congress who belong to the Tea Party movement and convince them of the imperative of the U.S. to invest in this part of the world.

The sanctioned: U.S. releases a list

Following is a list of those now subject to sanctions announced by the United States via executive orders of President Barack Obama. It was provided by the White House, Office of the Press Secretary, on March 17. The list includes seven Russian government officials, two Crimean separatist leaders and two former officials of Ukraine.

- **Vladislav Surkov:** Surkov is being sanctioned for his status as a presidential aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- **Sergey Glazyev:** Glazyev is being sanctioned for his status as a Presidential Adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- **Leonid Slutsky:** Slutsky is being sanctioned for his status as a State Duma deputy, where he is chairman of the Duma Committee on CIS Affairs, Eurasian Integration and Relations with Compatriots.

- **Andrei Klishas:** Klishas is being sanctioned for his status as a member of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and as chairman of the Federation Council Committee of Constitutional Law, Judicial and Legal Affairs, and the Development of Civil Society.

- **Valentina Matviyenko:** Matviyenko is being sanctioned for her status as head of the Federation Council.

- **Dmitry Rogozin:** Rogozin is being sanctioned for his status as the deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation.

- **Yelena Mizulina:** Mizulina is being sanctioned for her status as a State Duma deputy.

- **Sergey Aksyonov:** Aksyonov is being designated for threatening the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for undermining Ukraine's democratic institutions and processes. Aksyonov claims to be the prime minister of Crimea and has rejected the authority of the legitimate government in Kyiv.

- **Vladimir Konstantinov:** Konstantinov is being designated for threatening the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for undermining Ukraine's democratic institutions and processes. Konstantinov is the speaker of the Crimean Parliament, which on March 11, 2014, declared independence from Ukraine.

- **Viktor Medvedchuk:** Medvedchuk, leader of Ukrainian Choice, is being designated for threatening the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for undermining Ukraine's democratic institutions and processes. He is also being designated because he has materially assisted, sponsored or provided financial, material or technological support to Yanukovich and because he is a leader of an entity that has, or whose members have, engaged in actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in Ukraine and actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine.

- **Viktor Yanukovich:** Former Ukrainian President Yanukovich is being designated for threatening the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for undermining Ukraine's democratic institutions and processes. After abandoning Kyiv and ultimately fleeing to Russia, Yanukovich called upon Russian President Vladimir Putin to send Russian troops into Ukraine.

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Ukrainian government...

(Continued from page 1)

"Law enforcement organs have gathered evidence of the involvement of Russian intelligence services in organizing the disturbances in the east of our country. We have arrested saboteurs," he said.

The Russian media has dubbed the protests "Russian spring." They all had similar characteristics, such as ballots being distributed asking residents whether they support federalization and joining a union with Russia, a vague reference to the Eurasian Economic Union planned for launch next year.

The March 16 demonstrations in Kharkiv and Donetsk were particularly aggressive, both comprising crowds voicing their approval of an appeal to the Russian government to send its military to protect the Russian-speaking population from "fascism" and "lawlessness" in Kyiv.

In Donetsk, about 1,000 protesters stormed the oblast prosecutor's office to demand the release of Pavel Gubarev, the Russian-backed governor of the oblast. Activists also stormed the private office of Serhii Taruta, the state oblast administration chair, who represents the Presidential Administration in Donetsk.

Three days earlier, Dmytro Cherniavskiy, a member of the Svoboda nationalist party, was killed in clashes between pro-Russian and pro-EU forces that injured more than 50. Pro-Russian forces in the Donetsk Oblast have also been blocking Ukrainian military equipment from being transferred in reaction to the Crimean conflict, without police intervention.

In Kharkiv on March 16, about 1,500 pro-Russian thugs stormed the office of Prosvita, a Ukrainian cultural and literary organization, and carried out its books, including literature about the Holodomor, onto the building's doorstep for burning.

Two days earlier, pro-Russian activists tried to break into the same building, which serves as the headquarters of local nationalist groups, prompting a shootout that left two pro-Russian activists dead.

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) reported on March 16 that it had arrested a group of individuals in the Zaporizhia Oblast who planned to destabilize conditions in the oblast and confiscated from them firearms, cartridges and explosives.

Yet the pro-Russian protests themselves were poorly attended: up to 3,000 in Kharkiv, a tiny fraction of its 1.5 million population, reported local journalist Viacheslav Mavrychev; and up to 5,000 in

Odesa, a half a percent of its 1 million population, reported Interfax-Ukrayina.

Only a few hundred turned out in Luhansk, the UNIAN news agency reported, and only 600 turned out in Mykolayiv to hold a "people's referendum" to support federalization and creation of a Novorosiya (New Russia) district consisting of the Mykolayiv, Kherson and Odesa oblasts, reported nikvesti.com. Ballots were cast without even elementary proof of identification.

The Russian intelligence services "truly don't understand Ukrainian nuances very well," said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Taras Shevchenko State University in Kyiv. "The arrest of certain 'ringleaders' played a role [in the low attendance]. The pro-Russian protests aren't the spontaneous Maidan, but a process well-coordinated from abroad."

By nightfall on March 16, National Security and Defense Council Secretary Andrii Parubii declared that the Russian agents failed in their "Russian spring" operation in the eight southeastern oblasts, leaving them lost and not knowing how to further proceed.

"At 12:00 [noon], so-called protests were planned along with the declaration of so-called people's governors and takeover of state oblast administrations," he told the Channel 5 television news network. "They planned a peaceful march towards Kyiv for March 21. As of today, we can say that their plan wasn't fulfilled and fell through."

That hasn't stopped the Russians in their plans to federalize the southeastern Ukrainian oblasts.

On March 17, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement that essentially

laid out in detail how it plans to alter the Ukrainian government and its territory, calling for the creation of an international group to establish a federal state without Crimea.

It called upon Ukraine's Parliament to hold a constitutional assembly with equal representation from all of Ukraine's regions to prepare a new federal constitution that provides for federalization, military-political neutrality, state status for the Russian language, the protection of ethnic minorities and non-interference in religious affairs.

Once a referendum is held to approve the new constitution, the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry said, elections should be held for the "legislative and executive organs in each subject of the federation." The Russian government would then guarantee to defend the new territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

"In the current situation, in which the crisis has gone quite far, federalization will inevitably become an instrument for splitting and legitimizing Ukraine's division," said Volodymyr Fesenko, the director of the Penta Center of Applied Political Research in Kyiv. Its only advantage is "the split can occur relatively peacefully, under the monitoring of foreign observers."

Another political expert, Oleksandr Sushko of the Institute of Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in Kyiv, said Russia's plan is to expand its territory to the Dnister River in Moldova, incorporating its Prydnistrovia (Transdnister) region, taking over the Black Sea coastline and preventing Kyiv's access to the sea. "This plan won't necessarily unfold this year, but everything is possible

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Ukrainian government...

(Continued from page 10)

ble," he told a March 19 press conference.

Russian President Vladimir Putin made it clear he's interested in annexing southeastern Ukraine in a March 18 address to the Duma that has been compared by observers to Adolf Hitler's 1938 speech to the Reichstag on the seizure of the Sudetenland, ethnic German lands in the Czech Republic.

"After the Bolshevik Revolution, for various considerations, may God be their judge, significant territory of the historic Russian south was included into the structure of the Ukrainian republic of the union," Mr. Putin said in his speech, referring to the decision by the Bolsheviks to merge southeastern Ukraine with central Ukrainian lands in creating the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

"That was done without taking into account the national composition of its residents and today that's the contemporary southeastern Ukraine," the Russian president said.

A scheme similar to the Crimean scenario is currently being attempted in the Donetsk Oblast by Russian agents, Mr. Fesenko noted, while adding that it won't work without the presence of Russian soldiers, without whom the state organs can't be taken over.

That's why the Ukrainian government has kicked into action. On March 13, the Verkhovna Rada authorized the launch of a National Guard of volunteers to assist the armed forces. More than 40,000 have signed up within two days, said acting Defense Minister Ihor Tenyukh.

Mr. Yatsenyuk released a video-recorded statement on March 18 aimed at southeastern Ukrainians to assure them that they would see an improved government that accommodates their needs.

The controversial 2012 language law would remain in place, he said, a move that

critics said removes safeguards for the Ukrainian language and will allow citizens to live in Ukraine comfortably ignoring Ukrainian.

Mr. Yatsenyuk assured people in southeastern Ukraine that the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement would be rewritten to take into account "the worries and concerns of whether the free trade zone will lead to negative consequences for industrial regions, which is the east above all," he said.

[Ukraine and the European Union are to sign only the political portion of the Association Agreement at an EU summit in Brussels on March 21.]

Mr. Yatsenyuk also promised a new Constitution that would transfer significant authority and financial resources to oblast, city and district governments, particularly in the spheres of health care and utilities. He promised the creation of local police forces too.

"Local nuances will be taken into account in the spheres of education, culture, history and their heroes," he said. "All the innovations related to the decentralization of government will be reflected in the new Constitution, which we should write together."

Yet Mr. Yatsenyuk is not the person who can convince the southeastern Ukrainians to resist Russia's pull, Mr. Oleshchuk said, especially after Luhansk local industrial magnate and Party of Regions leader Oleksandr Yefremov has voiced his support for federalization.

"Yatsenyuk has a certain image in the east as an 'agent of American influence,' nationalist and Maidan leader, which doesn't inspire trust in his words," he said. "They are demoralized. Not everyone, but partly. Some support Ukraine's integrity, some support separatism. The majority is biding its time, which makes the east vulnerable."

Mr. Oleshchuk estimated the odds of a Russian military invasion of Donetsk as 50/50.

U.S. and NATO...

(Continued from page 1)

cations will lead to higher costs."

On March 17, the European Union and the United States unveiled sanctions targeting some 30 Russians, Ukrainians and Crimeans.

Mr. Carney added that the Russian economy was likely to suffer. "Russia is taking action that reverses some of the work that that nation had done to establish itself as a responsible leader on the international stage," he said. "It isolates Russia, it undermines faith in Russia's commitment to rule of law and therefore undermines the incentive that global investors might have in investing in Russia. That effect has a negative impact on Russia's economy and on the Russian people."

U.S. President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke about the crisis by telephone. Ms. Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said the leaders agreed Ukraine's territorial integrity had suffered "unacceptable blows."

Ms. Merkel and Mr. Obama also agreed that the March 16 referendum on secession held in Crimea violated Ukraine's Constitution and international law and that targeted measures against Russia were a "logical" response.

A statement from the EU's leadership said "the European Union does not and will not recognize" the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol.

Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov called Western sanctions "absolutely unacceptable" and said such measures would have consequences.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Mr. Lavrov delivered that message in a telephone call on March 18 with U.S.

Secretary of State John Kerry. The statement did not give details about any retaliatory measures the Kremlin might take against the United States and European Union.

Speaking to students in Washington later the same day, Mr. Kerry chided Russian officials for their interpretation of events. "I was really struck and somewhat surprised and even disappointed by the interpretations and the facts as they were articulated by [Russian] President [Vladimir Putin]," Mr. Kerry said. "With all due respect, they really just didn't jibe with reality or with what's happening on the ground. The president may have his version of history, but I believe that he and Russia for what they have done are on the wrong side of history."

Thousands of Russian forces have been occupying Crimea since late last month.

The Russian State Duma was expected to overwhelmingly back the treaty as soon as March 19.

In his speech to Russian lawmakers on March 18, President Putin said Crimea's secessionist referendum was democratic and Russia's annexation was in full accordance with international law.

He also dismissed Western criticism as unfair to Russians and Crimeans. Mr. Putin cited Kosovo's 2008 unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia, which has been recognized by Western nations but not by Russia.

With reporting by RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

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NEWSBRIEFS

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Russian-speakers there. "The main perpetrators of the [Ukrainian] coup were nationalists, neo-Nazis, Russophobes, and anti-Semites," Mr. Putin charged. "These are exactly the people who are still up to this day in control of life in Ukraine." He denied Western accusations that Russian forces had invaded Crimea, saying Moscow had sent troops in the region in line with a treaty with Ukraine. In a first immediate response, Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) rejected Crimea's annexation by Russia, as well as its self-declared independence. A senior official of the MFA said that "what happened today in Moscow has nothing in common with democracy, law, or common sense." (RFE/RL)

Crimean Tatars mourn activist

SYMFEROPOL - Crimean Tatars are mourning the death of Symferopol resident Reshat Ametov, 39, who was found dead on March 16 - nearly two weeks after he went missing after participating in a March 3 protest against the Russian troop presence in Crimea. The body of the local activist, bearing marks of violence and torture, was discovered by police in a forest near a village about 60 kilometers east of the

Crimean capital. The Crimean television channel ATR has aired what is believed to be the last known images of Mr. Ametov alive. The video reportedly shows Ametov passing through a line of pro-Russia "self-defense" forces in front of the Crimean Council of Ministers building on Symferopol's Lenin Square, where the protest was held. Mr. Ametov then approaches a group of armed men wearing green military fatigues, after which two men in unmarked uniforms led him away. Local media have reported that when discovered near the Bilohirsk district village of Zemlianychno, Mr. Ametov's body showed signs of a violent death, with his head bound with tape and his legs shackled. Mr. Ametov's funeral in Symferopol on March 18 came amid growing anxiety among the nearly 250,000-strong community of Crimean Tatars, most of whom are believed to have boycotted the controversial March 16 referendum in which voters chose to secede from Ukraine and join Russia. (RFE/RL)

UABA: referendum is illegal

LOS ANGELES - The Ukrainian American Bar Association on March 17 issued a statement on the Crimean referendum noting that "it violates Ukraine's Constitution, domestic laws and general principles of international law." A summary of the statement (the full text of which is available at www.uaba.org) reads: "It is self evident that

The Crimean referendum to join Russia held on March 16, 2014, is illegal and threatens Ukrainian sovereignty, territorial integrity, national and world peace, and international order and security. It violates the Constitution of Ukraine, its laws, generally accepted norms and principles of international law, and every conceivable principle of democracy. Countless international organizations and most countries around the world have already stated that under no circumstances is the Crimean referendum legitimate; therefore, its results will not be accepted nor recognized by the international community." The statement goes on to note: "The annexation of Crimea by Russia will have grave implications for the international legal order that protects the unity and sovereignty of all states. The referendum's predictable outcome, despite being illegal and illegitimate under both national and international rules and principles in the first place, is almost certain to push Crimea into an unresolved status. For years to come, Russia will use this uncertainty around the peninsula as leverage in a deadly game which the people of Ukraine have never intended to be a part of." Speaking of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, the UABA underscored: "...the United States, Great Britain and Russia have all undertaken a commitment to provide guarantees against threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, in exchange for Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and giving up the world's third largest nuclear arsenal. Ukraine has complied with its end of this agreement, and the time has now come for its other signatories to adhere to their obligations." (UABA)

it agreed to a request for annexation from Mikhail Burla, Transdnister's parliamentary speaker. Mr. Burla on March 17 urged Russia to incorporate the mainly Russian-speaking region. Traian Basescu, the president of neighboring Romania, said he fears that Moldova is "in great danger." In 2006, Transdnister held a referendum similar to the March 16 referendum in Crimea. Transdnister declared independence in 1990 over fears Moldova would reunite with neighboring Romania. Transdnister's independence is not recognized by any state. (RFE/RL)

Five-day truce reportedly reached

KYIV - Ukraine's acting defense minister, Ihor Tenyukh, says Russia has agreed on a truce in Crimea until March 21. Speaking in Kyiv, Mr. Tenyukh said the truce was reached with Russia's Defense Ministry and Russia's Black Sea Fleet on March 16. The announcement came as voters in Crimea cast ballots in a local referendum asking whether the peninsula should break away from Ukraine and become part of Russia. Russian soldiers have been blocking Ukrainian armed forces inside their bases in Crimea since the Kremlin deployed troops across the peninsula on February 28. Warships from Russia's Black Sea Fleet - which is based at the Crimean port of Sevastopol under a long-standing agreement with Ukraine - also have been facing off against Ukrainian naval vessels in a tense standoff. Minister Tenyukh said that under a five-day-truce, Russia has promised that "no measures will be taken against our military facilities in Crimea" until March 21. He said Ukrainian military facilities on the peninsula are "therefore proceeding with a replenishment of reserves." Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces on the mainland remained on high alert on March 16 - one day after the Defense Ministry in Kyiv said Russian forces had tried for the first time during the crisis to enter Ukrainian territory north of Crimea. Ukrainian border guard spokesman Oleh Sobodan said about 120 Russian soldiers on March 15 took control of a natural-gas distribution station near the village of Strilkove in Ukraine's Kherson Oblast, about 10 kilometers north of the administrative border with Crimea. The head of Strilkove's village council, Oleksandr Ponomarev, said the Russian troops told him their operation was aimed at "ensuring the protection of the gas-pumping station" and the Sea of Azov wells in the Strilkovoye gas field that are operated by Chornomornaftogaz, a subsidiary of Ukraine's Kyiv-based, state-owned Naftohaz Ukrainy. (RFE/RL)

Kyiv dissolves Crimean Parliament

KYIV - The Ukrainian Parliament in Kyiv voted on March 15 to dissolve the regional Crimean Parliament. An overwhelming majority of 278 lawmakers voted in favor of the measure, with one abstention. Seventeen legislators did not take part in the vote. Kyiv's Verkhovna Rada debated the issue on March 15 in a special session presided over by acting President and Rada Chair Oleksandr Turchynov. Legislators in Kyiv are upset with the Crimean Parliament's holding of a referendum on the peninsula on whether to leave Ukraine and join Russia, scheduled for March 16. The Ukrainian government has declared the referendum illegal. But Russian officials have said they will "respect" the will of the people. Meanwhile, Mr. Turchynov accused Moscow of being behind the deadly violence that has occurred in eastern Ukraine over the last two nights. Mr. Turchynov said in Parliament on March 15 that "Kremlin agents" in Donetsk and Kharkiv "are organizing and funding" mass pro-Russia protests. Three people have died and dozens of

(Continued on page 13)

Readout of Obama-Putin call

WASHINGTON - The White House on March 16 released the readout of a telephone call between President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The readout reported: "Mr. Obama emphasized that the Crimean 'referendum,' which violates the Ukrainian Constitution and occurred under duress of Russian military intervention, would never be recognized by the United States and the international community. He emphasized that Russia's actions were in violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and that, in coordination with our European partners, we are prepared to impose additional costs on Russia for its actions. President Obama underscored that there remains a clear path for resolving this crisis diplomatically, in a way that addresses the interests of both Russia and the people of Ukraine. He noted that the Ukrainian government continues to take concrete steps that would allow for the de-escalation of the crisis, particularly as it prepares for elections this spring and undertakes constitutional reform, and he asked that Russia support the immediate deployment of international monitors to help prevent acts of violence by any groups. President Obama reiterated that a diplomatic resolution cannot be achieved while Russian military forces continue their incursions into Ukrainian territory and that the large-scale Russian military exercises on Ukraine's borders only exacerbate the tension. President Obama said that Secretary [of State John] Kerry continues to be prepared to work together with [Russian] Foreign Minister [Sergei] Lavrov and the Ukrainian government to find a diplomatic resolution to the crisis." (White House)

Moldova's president warns Russia

CHISINAU - Moldova has warned Russia against any move to annex its breakaway Transdnister region in the same way it has taken control of Ukraine's Crimea. President Nicolae Timofti said on March 18 that Russia would be making a "mistake" if

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

others have been injured in clashes between pro-Russia and pro-Ukraine supporters in the past two nights. Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakhov said two people were killed and several wounded in a shootout in Kharkiv overnight on March 14. (RFE/RL)

U.S. vessel in more Black Sea drills

WASHINGTON – The commander of a U.S. military vessel said on March 15 it will carry out more exercises with NATO allied ships in the Black Sea. The U.S.S. Truxtun took part in drills with Romanian and Bulgarian ships in the Black Sea last week a few hundreds kilometers from Crimea where Russia has deployed troops after protests toppled Ukraine's pro-Moscow president. The United States said the exercises were routine and had been planned long before the crisis erupted. But they coincided with air drills carried out by U.S. and Polish fighter jets in Poland and NATO reconnaissance flights over Eastern Europe. (RFE/RL)

Oligarch Firtash arrested in Vienna

PRAGUE – Dmytro Firtash, a 48-year-old Ukrainian oligarch who has long been wanted by U.S. authorities on suspicion of bribery and criminal conspiracy, was arrested in Austria on March 12. He was taken into custody the evening of March 12 in Vienna without incident. Viennese police spokesman Mario Hejl said the detainee was arrested on the basis of a request from Washington. A Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman said Ukraine's Embassy in Vienna had confirmed Mr. Firtash was arrested at the FBI's request. He had been under investigation since 2006 by the FBI and is being held in Vienna pending extradition proceedings. Mr. Firtash is one of Ukraine's richest men and has close links to Russia. He made his money in the gas, chemicals, media, and banking sectors and was a key backer of recently ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. He was one of the owners of RosUkrEnergo, a gas-trading company that served as the intermediary in gas dealings between Russia and Ukraine. On March 14 it was reported that the U.S. government will request that Austria extradite Mr. Firtash. Austrian authorities said the oligarch had been placed in "extradition custody," the first step toward a possible extradition to the United States. Vienna district court said on March 14 that Dmytro Firtash "filed an appeal against the decision." The court added that it had set bail for Firtash at \$174 million on the understanding that if he pays this and is released, he will not leave Austria. (RFE/RL)

Obama meets with Yatsenyuk

WASHINGTON – In a strong show of support, U.S. President Barack Obama met Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk at the White House on March 12. Mr. Obama told the Ukrainian leader that Washington will stand with Ukraine in ensuring that its territorial integrity is maintained. "We have been very clear that we consider the

Russian incursion into Crimea, outside of its bases, to be a violation of international law, of international agreements of which Russia is a signatory, and a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine," he said after the meeting on March 12. The president added that the West would be forced to "apply a cost" if Russian President Vladimir Putin did not change course in the dispute over Ukraine. Prime Minister Yatsenyuk said his government is ready for talks, but will not abandon its fight to protect Ukraine's sovereignty: "It's all about freedom," he said. "We fight for our freedom, we fight for our independence, we fight for our sovereignty and we will never surrender." (RFE/RL)

Yatsenyuk addresses Security Council

UNITED NATIONS – Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk told the U.N. Security Council on March 13 that his country has faced a military aggression that has "no reason and no grounds," but he said it was still possible to peacefully resolve the crisis with Russia. "We urge [the] Russian Federation to pull back its military forces deployed in Crimea to barracks and to start real talks and negotiations in order to tackle this conflict," Mr. Yatsenyuk said, speaking as tensions escalated ahead of a referendum in Crimea, now occupied by Russian forces, on whether to join Russia. He said that Russia's "military aggression" in Crimea is undermining global security and nuclear nonproliferation. "The way our Russian neighbors – and I believe that if we start real talks with Russia, they could be real partners – acted, undermines the entire global security and nuclear non-proliferation program," Mr. Yatsenyuk said. "As after these actions, it will be very difficult to convince anyone in the globe not to have nuclear weapons." Turning to Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, Mr. Yatsenyuk – who until then had been delivering his address in English – asked him in Russian whether Russia really wanted war. Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said Russia did not want war in Ukraine, while urging the international community to respect Crimea's right to self-determination. (RFE/RL)

U.S. to assist in asset recovery

KYIV – On March 8, the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv announced that following-up on Secretary of State John Kerry's announcement, "the United States has deployed an interagency team of experts to Kyiv to begin working with their Ukrainian counterparts to identify assets that may have been stolen by the Yanukovich regime. The full team is now on the ground. These experts are in contact with their counterparts within the Ukrainian government and will assist Ukrainian investigators in documenting stolen assets and identifying their current location, in order to facilitate the future return of assets to Ukraine. While asset recovery is a lengthy and complicated process, we are happy to be able to contribute to the effort." (U.S. Embassy Kyiv)

Ukrainian TV off the air in Crimea

PRAGUE – When it was first reported that the terrestrial signals of Ukrainian-based television stations had been blocked

and replaced by Russian stations in Symferopol, the de-facto Crimean government's deputy premier said the problem was purely a technical one. But Luke Springer, RFE/RL's director of technology, says that although a technical problem could account for an inadvertent switching error, for the problem to persist for this length of time "requires human intervention or worse, lack of human intervention." Russia-backed Crimean Information Minister Dmitry Polonsky admitted on March 9 that the channels had been blocked. He said that because the region now considers itself a part of Russia, Ukrainian TV channels will have to reapply for new contracts. He also cited "moral reasons," according to ITAR-TASS. "All Ukrainian TV channels are rigidly censored by the 'illegitimate' authorities in Kyiv in violations of fundamental principles," he said. The Russian channels that replaced the Ukrainian ones, including Rossiya 24, NTV and Perviy Kanal, have been criticized by pro-Ukrainian activists for toeing a fiercely anti-Kyiv line. The de-facto authorities have also used more overt methods of cracking down on independent journalists. Ukrainian station 1+1 said through a press release on March 6 that it had been ordered by pro-Russian Crimean authorities to terminate its broadcasts and some Ukrainian journalists have been prevented from entering the Crimean peninsula. TeleKritika, a Ukrainian NGO, has counted 61 cases of "violations of the right to freedom of speech, obstruction of journalistic activity and attacks on the media" in Crimea since mid-February. And The

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), of which Russia is a member, has slammed "extreme censorship" and attacks on journalists in Crimea. (RFE/RL)

OSCE to send observers for May 25

WARSAW – The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) announced on March 3 that it would send an election observation mission to Ukraine for the May 25 presidential election. The announcement came after the office received an invitation to observe from the Ukrainian authorities, in line with ODIHR's role as the OSCE institution mandated to observe and assess elections for their conformity with OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections, as well as with national legislation. The mission will comprise a core team of experts, based in Kyiv. ODIHR will request 100 long-term observers to follow preparations and the campaign in the regions of the country in the weeks leading up to the vote, and 900 short-term observers to monitor election day proceedings, counting and tabulation of election results. As part of the observation, the mission will also carry out comprehensive monitoring of the media coverage of the campaign. The ODIHR mission expects to be joined by a mission from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as delegations from other parliamentary institutions, in observing procedures on election day. (OSCE)



ROMAN BUKOWINSKY

JUNE 8, 1944 – MARCH 13, 2014

It is with a deep sense of sadness that we inform the friends of Roman Bukowinsky that he passed away on March 13, 2014 at Morris Hills Center in Morristown, NJ at the age of 69 after receiving the sacraments of the Church. Roman was the son of the late Peter and Julia Bukowinsky. He was a graduate of St. Basil's High School in Stamford, CT, and Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Roman was an accomplished artist, iconographer and sculptor before suffering a stroke 20 years ago. He was employed at Dunbarton Oaks in Washington, DC and taught at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic School in Jersey City, NJ. He will be deeply missed by his friends.

Roman-Zenon and Maria A. Mykyta



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що 18 лютого 2014 року відійшов у вічність на 97 році життя найдорожчий Батько та Дідусь

всесвітлої пам'яті

інж. Роман Тарас Галькевич

народжений 2 лютого 1917 р. у Львові

Закінчивши студії у Львівській Політехніці, опинився у Ді-Пі таборі у Міттенвальді, а опісля поселився з родиною в Сохоес, N.Y. Після виходу на пенсію в 1982 році переїхав з дружиною до дітей до Вінніпеґу.

Роман все своє життя був відданим громадським діячем, щирим українцем, який безмежно любив рідну землю і як міг старався для неї.

У глибокому смутку залишилися:

- дружина - Марія Ольга з дому Туркевичів
- діти - Оксана Шулякевич з чоловіком Любомиром
- Богдан Галькевич з дружиною Марійкою
- внуки - д-р Маркіян (Юлія) Шулякевич
- д-р Ждан (Келі) Шулякевич
- Андрій Галькевич
- сестра - Анна (Василь) Гогоша
- сестрінок - Орест (Бетсі) Гогоша з родиною
- ближча і дальша родина в Америці, Австралії й Україні.

Похорон відбувся 28 лютого 2014 року в Українській католицькій катедрі Святих Володимира і Ольги у Вінніпезі, Канада.

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

tasted it briefly, and it was prepared now to fight for that freedom harder than before. But from all of this misery came the silver lining – that the Ukrainian population, language and culture were recognized as being separate by the American press correspondents, making it difficult to convince

the world that they have all become Russian overnight. The American press also noted that the Ukrainian national movement is too powerful to remain quelled for long anywhere.

"All this Hungary and the other oppressors of Ukraine should realize before it is too late, before they experience disaster at the hands of a thoroughly aroused 45 million Ukrainian nation."

Source: "Hungary's Perfidy," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 25, 1939.

Russia can play...

(Continued from page 2)

stage for pursuing a flexible approach in the wake of the Crimean plebiscite. Presiding as it does over a lawless state, Russia's leadership attaches a great deal of importance to the outward appearance of punctilious legality.

The Russian Federation has constitutional and legal procedures in place on accepting territories into the Russian Federation as new constituent entities. The procedures authorize incorporating a territory from another sovereign state, pursuant to the expression of those inhabitants' will, and subject to the consent of the sovereign state affected, under inter-state agreements (Interfax, March 11, 16).

In the case at hand, however, no Ukrainian government of any color would consent to ceding Crimea (or any territory). To circumvent this legal hurdle, the Spravedlivaya Rossiya (A Just Russia) party recently submitted amendments in the Russian Parliament to eliminate the requirement for the foreign sovereign state's consent. This "simplified procedure," if adopted, would "legally" authorize Russia to incorporate a territory from another state into Russia on the basis of a referendum in that territory, or an appeal from that territory's local authorities requesting accession to Russia.

The Kremlin, however, has temporarily postponed action on these amendments in the parliamentary committees (Interfax, February 27, March 6; Rossiiskaya Gazeta, March 11).

On March 11, moreover, the Crimean Parliament adopted a "declaration of independence" clearly designed to delay the implementation of the plebiscite's outcome. Paradoxically, the vote "to become a

part of the Russian Federation" is, instead, resulting in the creation of an "independent and sovereign state" of Crimea, which would then initiate procedures for its accession to the Russian Federation. The "declaration of independence" describes this as a temporary status, pending a negotiated accession. Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs instantly issued a statement characterizing the "independence declaration" as legally valid (Interfax, March 11).

In practice, this declaration has introduced "independence" as a third option: not on the plebiscite's ballot, but rather for post-plebiscite political-diplomatic maneuvering by Russia. Undoubtedly, Moscow dictated the addition of the "independence" option. "Accepting" an "independent state" into Russia would be presented as less brazen than seizing a part of another state's territory and annexing it without a half-decent interval and pseudo-legal cover.

Crimea's new, Moscow-installed leaders anticipate a "transitional period" of six months to one year for consummating Crimea's accession to the Russian Federation as a federal republic (Interfax, March 16, 17).

Crimea's "independence" broadens Moscow's options to play with during the post-plebiscite period. The Kremlin will be able either to precipitate Crimea's accession or to drag it out, taking into account international reactions and Ukraine's internal situation. "Negotiating" the terms of Crimea's accession allows time and space for Russia to maneuver. It can define the scope, pace and technicalities of the annexation process, seeking to leverage its flexible options against Ukraine and the West.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

Fake 'referendum'...

(Continued from page 2)

(<http://www.gazeta.ru/comments/column/lukyanov/5952017.shtml>). And yet, despite the damage to its own economic interests, the European Union is well aware that it needs to take further extraordinary steps – including ones that seemed inconceivable even a month ago. Mr. Putin's lieutenants, on the other hand, cannot quite comprehend that their demonstrative disregard of Western pressure is only adding to the West's resolve. Gazprom, for instance, was previously seen in Europe as a partner too valuable to antagonize. But now its CEO, Alexei Miller, is on the short list for sanctions and the company's European assets are seen as legitimate targets for economic penalties as well (<http://newsru.com/finance/17mar2014/gazpromsan.html>).

Any pragmatic calculation shows that the costs of re-incorporating Crimea into Russia are prohibitively high. Yet, such estimates are clearly not being taken into account by the advocates of correcting the "historic injustice" (Novaya Gazeta, March 14). Further sanctions are certain to increase this burden on Russia; but the policy planners in the EU have to take into account the possibility that the Crimean peninsula, whatever its symbolic value to many Russians, may not be the real goal of the Kremlin's feverish aggressiveness. In fact, Mr. Putin has never shown any sentimental feelings for this beautiful but badly neglected resort. Rather, he remains anxiously obsessed and preoccupied with the specter of anti-government revolutions in the region (<http://gefeter.ru/archive/11640>).

Sending troops to Crimea seems ill-advised if the aim is to succeed in detaching it from Ukraine. But it makes more sense if the intention was to demonstrate Russia's determination in deterring and discrediting the revolutionary breakthrough toward a new democratic and European future for Ukraine. In order to torpedo such aspirations, Russia must proceed from the first "victory" in Crimea to the main theater of counter-revolutionary struggle: eastern and southern Ukraine. The bloody provocations in Kharkiv last

Saturday fit into such a campaign plan (<http://newsru.com/world/15mar2014/mvdkharkov.html>).

Russian public opinion is strongly in favor of embracing Crimea and broadly supports the use of troops for stabilizing the situation in eastern Ukraine. Only 36 percent of respondents express concern about the risk of war (Novaya Gazeta, March 15). It takes courage to express a dissenting opinion; nevertheless, tens of thousands of Muscovites marched on March 15 against the military intervention and in support of Ukraine's independence (http://echo.msk.ru/blog/old_dweller/1280272-echo/). The police did not try to disperse the unexpectedly strong rally. However, independent media voices, including Internet publications, are being silenced one after another.

Clearly, street protests, important as they are for preparing a shift in public opinion, are not going to slow down Mr. Putin's military crusade against the Maidan movement in Ukraine (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, March 12). U.S. President Barack Obama made yet another futile effort on March 16 to dissuade Mr. Putin from breaking the basic norms of international behavior. And the lengthy meeting between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov on March 14 confirmed that the space for diplomatic compromises is non-existent (Kommersant, March 15).

Economic sanctions could push the Russian economy into a deep depression – and its affluent elites into a quiet panic. But the sanctions' impact needs to be reinforced by some extraordinary measures that would shock the overzealous interventionists in the Kremlin. Cyber instruments could prove useful, but some old-fashioned penalties, like for instance the multilaterally ensured closure of the Bosphorus for the Russian navy, might produce a strong impression. That would certainly constitute a violation of the Montreux Convention (1936), but Moscow is hardly in a position right now to appeal to international law.

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About Russia's...

(Continued from page 7)

minority languages in accordance with European standards.

On February 23, 2014, the Ukrainian Parliament repealed – in one sentence – the 2012 "Ukrainian Law on Language Policy." There is absolutely no mention in this legislation of banning anything.

In an effort to deescalate the ethnic tensions resulting from the Kremlin's disinformation campaign (which has been fueled by erroneous Western media reporting), interim Ukrainian President Oleksandr Turchynov vetoed the February 23, 2014, repeal legislation, and the Ukrainian

Parliament will be drafting new legislation to comport with European standards so as to properly safeguard the rights of all minorities and all citizens of Ukraine.

Western media – especially those with international reach – must fulfill their journalistic obligations and stop being unwitting enablers of disinformation talking points emanating from the Kremlin and its public relations firms in the West, and must do independent due diligence as to the accuracy of their reporting. Failure to do so will only artificially create ethnic tensions in Ukraine, thus fulfilling the goal of the Russian government to destabilize Ukraine so as to camouflage its invasion of Ukraine in full violation of all international standards and law.

Don't just sanction...

(Continued from page 6)

could support sustained joint air patrols over the sea, led by Turkey and together with Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia.

The West should employ military power to deter Russian aggression against neighbors, but there is no reason to believe that Moscow plans nuclear attacks. While Western responses need not encompass

nuclear-related countermeasures, no more withdrawals of U.S. nuclear weapons from Europe should take place.

Prudent but potent Western defense steps will increase uncertainty in Kremlin thinking and unease about consequences of aggression in Crimea or beyond. They will also provide more space for diplomacy and political resolution. Two decades after the collapse of the USSR, a strong defense remains essential to achieving a Europe that is whole, free and at peace.



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Ukraine steals spotlight at Sochi Paralympics

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Team Ukraine stood tall at the 2014 Winter Paralympic Games held in Sochi, Russia on March 7-16. Standing ovation tall. Beginning with a triumphant protest during the Games' opening ceremonies, amazing medal-winning performances the first day of competition and a best-ever second overall finish, Ukraine's star shined brightly on Russian soil.

All but one of 31 Ukrainian athletes boycotted the opening ceremony's parade in protest of Russia's invasion into Crimea. The spectacular march of 45 nations around Fischt Stadium saw a lone Ukrainian athlete, solitary flag bearer, Nordic skier Mykhailo Tkachenko, who carried the Ukrainian flag, who was greeted with a thunderous ovation by the capacity crowd. This after Ukraine decided its athletes would remain in Sochi despite the ongoing standoff with Russia.

Ukraine scored five medals on the first day of competition, with Olena Lurkovska winning a bronze medal in the women's 6-kilometer sitting biathlon competition. The first Ukrainian medalist dedicated the medal-winning victory to her country's independence.

"I devote my first medal in Sochi to an independent Ukraine," she said in a post-competition press conference. "Every time I race, it will be for Ukrainian independence and peace in my country."

Ukraine won two more bronze medals in biathlon that day, while Maksym Yarovyi claimed silver in the men's 7.5-kilometer sitting event and Vitaliy Lukyanenko took the first of his gold medals in the visually impaired class. Lukyanenko beat Russia's five-time world champion

Nikolay Polukhin, the favorite, by 11 seconds.

Following a third overall performance in 2006 and a fourth in 2010, Ukraine achieved an even better result in Sochi: second best (based on total medals) among 45 competing nations. Five gold medals, nine silver medals and 11 bronze medals left the Paralympics power with a total of 25 medals. Biathlon was Ukraine's elite discipline (16 medals), while cross-country skiing surprised with another 10. The women were the big winners with 16 total medals, and the men won eight medals (one silver medal was won by a mixed-relay team). Individually, Lukyanenko won two gold medals (four overall), Juliia Batenkova and Oksana Shyshkova each captured four total medals with the former winning two silvers.

Gold medal performances

Ukraine won its second gold medal on March 9 when Lyudmyla Pavlenko was victorious in women's 12-kilometer cross-country skiing. Pavlenko finished in 38 minutes 54.3 seconds to seal her sixth career Paralympic medal, her first gold and her first win at a major championship since 2005.

The silver medal went to Ukraine-born Oksana Masters of the United States, 21.7 seconds off Pavlenko's time.

Lukyanenko won his second gold medal of the Paralympic Games on March 11, shining brightly in the 12.5-kilometer visually impaired biathlon. Lukyanenko built on his success at the 7.5-kilometer event, once again beating Russia's Polukhin, who settled for second best.

Visually impaired biathlon involves blind or partially sighted athletes competing with the help of sighted guides. In the shooting portion of the event, athletes use modified

rifles which provide aural cues to assist them in hitting the targets.

Oleksandra Kononova held off a strong Russian challenge to claim biathlon gold in the women's standing 12.5-kilometer race on March 14. After a strong start Kononova looked to have faded, but the 23-year-old surged back to add a gold medal to the silver she had won in an earlier 10-kilometer race. In doing so she denied Russia's Alena Kaufman a third gold medal.

Grygorii Vovchynskyi survived the challenge of Norway's Nils Erik-Ulset in the men's 15-kilometer standing race to win his first Paralympic gold medal in biathlon on March 14. Vovchynskyi won two medals at the Vancouver Games in 2010, but this was his first gold medal after shooting clean at the Laura course in the mountains above Sochi.

Silent protest

Some members of Ukraine's Paralympic team staged "silent protests" against the turmoil in their country by covering their medals during award ceremonies. Ukraine's cross-country skiing relay team covered their silver medals as Russian rivals collected their gold medals on March 15.

Ukrainian team official Nataliya Harach said: "It is a silent protest fighting for peace for everyone... because the situation in Ukraine did not change."

Sochi Shorts: Oleksandra Kononova, Maksym Yarovyi and Olena Lurkovska each won three medals...Ukraine's athletes attended the formal closing ceremonies of the Games...Oksana Masters of the U.S. team won two medals: a silver in women's 12-kilometer sitting cross-country skiing and a bronze in 5-kilometer sitting skiing...

SPORTSLINE

by Matthew Dugas

Soccer

• In the UEFA Europa League, all three Ukrainian clubs were eliminated from the playoff round after Dynamo Kyiv's 0-2 loss against Valencia on February 20 and its 0-0 tie with Valencia on February 27 (the first-leg match, originally scheduled for Kyiv, was moved to Cyprus, and the second-leg match played in Spain); Shakhtar Donetsk tied the Czech club Plzen 1-1 on February 20 and lost 1-2 on February 27 in the second-leg match; Dnipropetrovsk Dnipro won 1-0 against Tottenham Hotspur and lost 3-1 on February 27 in the second-leg match.

• Brazilian soccer player Maicon Pereira de Oliveira, 25, was killed in a car accident on February 8 in Donetsk. Maicon, as he was known, played for Shakhtar Donetsk, as well as Illichivets Mariupol, Volyn and Zoria. In Brazil he played for Flamengo, Fluminense and Alagoanhas Atletico.

• Shakhtar Donetsk won its first trophy of 2014 after winning all three of its matches at the G-Drive United Supercup on February 6 in Israel. In the final match, Shakhtar defeated CSKA Moscow 2-1, with Dario Srna and Taison scoring for Ukraine. Second place was won by Metalist Kharkiv, after it won 2-1 against Zenit St. Petersburg. Shakhtar finished with nine points, Kharkiv with four, Zenit with three and CSKA with two points.

• Dnipropetrovsk Dnipro and Metalist Kharkiv fans were cited for their aggressive behavior during a Ukrainian Premier League match between the two clubs in October 2013. Both teams were fined 200,000 hrv; Metalist's Diego Souza and Dnipro's Ruslan Rotan got into a spat in the 75th minute, and the board ruled that the Kharkiv player be suspended for two games; and Dnipro head coach Juande Ramos was fined 7,500 hrv and suspended for one match after failing to remain in the technical area.

• Ukraine has remained in the 18th spot of the FIFA rankings since December 2013, with France in the 17th spot and Russia in the 19th spot. Spain tops the list, which is updated monthly, and includes 209 national federations. The latest rankings were released on March 13.

• Ukrainian soccer coach Gene Chyzowych was awarded the 2014 Walt Chyzowych Lifetime Achievement Award on January 18 in Philadelphia. The event, sponsored by Philadelphia Union, and held in conjunction with the National Soccer Coaches Association Convention, was held at the Field House Sports and Beer Hall, located inside the Philadelphia Convention Center. The award is presented by

the Walt Chyzowych Memorial Fund, founded in 1994 after the namesake's passing, and honors an individual who has exemplified Walt Chyzowych's spirit for the game of soccer. Gene Chyzowych retired in 2013 from coaching soccer at Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J., after 51 years – notching more than 750 wins. "This is a very special honor," he said in a statement. "Walt was my brother, but was also my mentor and best friend. To be named the 2014 recipient and be included with previous recipients who have made such an incredible impact on U.S. soccer is both heart-warming and humbling."

Futsal

• Ukraine lost 1-2 against Portugal on February 3 in its quarterfinal match of the Futsal Euro competition. Ukraine defeated Romania 1-0 on January 30 in Antwerp, Belgium, as part of the Group A regular play. Ukraine tied 0-0 with Belgium on February 1. Italy defeated Russia in the final, held in Antwerp on February 8. Ukraine topped the Group A slate and finished with four points after two matches played.

Boxing

• Heavyweight Vyacheslav Glazkov (16-0-1, 11 KO) defeated Tomasz Adamek (49-2, 29 KO) of Poland on March 15 at the Sands Casino Resort in Bethlehem, Pa. The judges scored unanimously after 12 rounds, 110-117, 111-117, 112-116, and Glazkov picked up the IBF North American heavyweight title from Adamek.

• Featherweight Oleg Malinovsky (11-0, 3 KO) defeated countryman Dmytro Aushev (1-3, 1 KO) after six rounds on March 14 at Sport Life Club in Kyiv. The unanimous decision was scored 60-54, 59-55, 60-54. Also that night, welterweight Illya Prymak (1-0, 6 KO) defeated countryman Ihor Fanian (14-6-2, 7 KO) by unanimous decision after eight rounds. Judges scored 79-73, 77-75, 79-73. Super welterweight Stanislav Skorokhod (6-0, 4 KO) won against Andrei Abramenka (20-4-2, 4 KO) when the Belarusian retired after the second round of eight.

• Heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko (61-3, 51 KO) is set to face Samoan-Australian challenger Alex Leapai (30-4-3, 24 KO) on April 26 in Oberhausen, Germany. Light heavyweight Anatoliy Dudchenko (19-2-0, 13 KO) faces Dmitri Sukhotskiy (21-2, 16 KO) of Russia on April 4 at the Liacouras Center in Philadelphia.

• Ukraine's Otamans defeated Germany 5-0 on March 8 as part of the World Series of Boxing tournament. Ukraine

lost against Argentina Condors 2-3 on February 7 in Buenos Aires at the National Boxing Federation Stadium; Ukraine defeated Germany 4-1 on February 14; Ukraine lost to Italy 0-5 on February 22; Ukraine won 3-2 against the U.S.A. Knockouts on January 17; and Ukraine defeated Algeria's Desert Hawks 4-1 on January 11. Ukraine advances to the playoffs against Russia in the quarterfinals on February 28, with a venue to be confirmed, followed by a second-leg meet on April 4. The Otamans are in second place in Group A, with 25 points and an 8-2 win/loss match record, and a 36-14 fight record. Italy tops Group A with 26 points.

• Featherweight Vasyl Lomachenko (1-1, 1 KO) suffered his first professional loss against Mexico's Orlando Salido (40-12-2, 28 KO) on March 1 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. Judges scored a split decision after 12 rounds, 116-112, 115-113, 113-115, that saw Salido retain his WBO title.

• Middleweight Evhen Khytrov (2-0-0, 2 KO) won by TKO after the fifth of six rounds against Julius Kennedy (7-7-1, 3 KO) of the U.S.A. on February 21 at Shipley Arena in Westminster, Md.

• Super welterweight Taras Shelestyuk (6-0-0, 4 KO) won by first-round TKO against Mexico's Francisco Flores (2-3, 1 KO) on February 21 at the Edgewater Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, Nev.

• Middleweight Maxim Bursak (29-1-1, 12 KO) lost by unanimous decision against Jarrod Fletcher (17-1-0, 10 KO) of Australia on February 1 at Salle de Etoiles in Monte Carlo. After 12 rounds, the judges scored 111-115, 112-114, 111-115.

• Lightweight Ivan Redkach (15-0-0, 13 KO) won against Tony Luis (17-1-0, 7 KO) of Canada on January 17 at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, Tenn. Judges scored unanimously after 10 rounds, 99-90, 97-92, 97-93.

• Lightweight Dmytro Bohachuk (6-17-1, 3 KO) lost by unanimous decision after six rounds against Ricardo Silva (4-0-0, 1 KO) on December 26 at Kursall in Berne, Switzerland. Judges scored 54-59, 53-60, 63-60. Middleweight Boris Akopov (4-13-1, 3 KO) lost to Mischa Nigg (4-1-0, 4 KO) of Switzerland after a KO in the fifth round of six. Akopov led on points (40-36, 40-35, 40-36). Light welterweight Artem Ayvasidi (10-5-1, 5 KO) tied with

(Continued on page 18)

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Hillsborough parish remembers Maidan's "Heavenly Brigade"

by Eugene L. Brenycz

HILLSBOROUGH, N.J. – On Thursday evening, March 13, the parishioners of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillsborough, N.J., gathered with members of the local community for a panakhyda (requiem service) and a remembrance in the church hall to honor the sacrifice of the "Nebesna Sotnia," or the Heavenly Brigade,

those who gave their lives on the Maidan since December 2013 for a free and independent Ukraine.

The Rev. Orest Kunderevych, pastor of St. Michael's, offered the panakhyda in front of 80 attendees; prayers were said for the deceased Ukrainian heroes. The service ended with the traditional singing of "Vichnaya Pamiat" (Eternal Memory) and a prayer for peace in Ukraine distributed by



Parish members read the names of the Heavenly Brigade who gave their lives on Ukraine's Maidan.



Women and children of the parish hold photos of those killed on the Maidan.

the Philadelphia Archeparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The church hall was beautifully decorated for the commemoration service by parishioners Nadia Gakalo and Maria Wovk. A cross composed of 106 candles, one for each of the victims, was set before the stage. Women and children from the parish family stood side by side, each holding a candle, a rose and a photo of a victim of violence bought about by the Yanukovych regime.

The remembrance program began with the playing of "Hey Plyve Kacha," a tradi-

tional Ukrainian folk song adopted on Kyiv's Maidan (Independence Square) as a salute to the fallen heroes.

Parishioner Eugene Brenycz made a short introductory statement in both English and Ukrainian, saluting those who had sacrificed their lives. Joining him in reading the names of the Heavenly Brigade were parishioners Ihor Shymkiv, Yuri Wovk, Mary Makar and Ewhen Brenycz.

The attendees then saluted the fallen with chants of "Heroes never die!" The program concluded with the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem.

Lithuanian Canadian community expresses full support of Ukraine

MONTREAL – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Montreal branch was invited by the Canadian Lithuanian Community, Montreal branch, to participate in the 96th anniversary of the declaration of Lithuanian independence in 1918. The commemoration was held on February 16 at the Our Lady Gate of Dawn Church hall in Montreal, a church and community center over 100 years old.

The keynote guest speaker was Joana Kuras-Lasys, president, National Executive of the Lithuanian Canadian Community, from Toronto. Her opening remarks, to the over 200 guests present, referred to the crisis in Ukraine, conveying grave concerns about the price being paid by the people on Kyiv's Maidan (Independence Square), their growing loss of life from attacks by government riot police and snipers. She expressed full support of the Lithuanian-Canadian Community.

Speaking on behalf of the UCC Montreal branch, President Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova stated, "we are reminded of the

(Continued on page 18)



Representatives of various ethno-cultural communities at the 96th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence celebrated in Montreal, president of UCC Montreal Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova (fifth from the left).

Northeastern Pennsylvania shows solidarity with Euro-Maidan



SCRANTON, Pa. – During Northeastern Pennsylvania's 10th annual Malanka held on January 11 at the Parish Center of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church of Scranton, tribute was paid to those in Ukraine demonstrating in their quest for true democracy and an end to Russia's domination. The 115 participants of the Malanka from the region's various Catholic and Orthodox parishes took time out to show their strong support for the millions of freedom-loving Ukrainians. Preceding the evening event, liturgy was celebrated by St. Vladimir's pastor, the Rev. Myron Myronyuk, who included special petitions offered for Ukraine. At the Malanka, attendees gathered together waving the flags of the United States and of Ukraine while singing the Ukrainian national anthem to music provided by the Fata Morgana band.



New Ukrainian Wave, Passaic

PASSAIC, N.J. – The Ukrainian American Youth Association's Passaic branch hosted a beautiful "Yalynka" celebration on Sunday, January 26. The annual event was dedicated this year to the Euro-Maidan and included a Euro-Maidan "vertop," hymns and prayers, as well as a collection of donations (\$926 was raised) in support of Ukraine's Maidan. This dedication reflected the organization's support and reinforced the group's video message sent on November 21, 2013, to the Maidan: "Ukraine, we are with you!"

– Lilliana Chudolij

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE



Philadelphians protest Russian aggression

PHILADELPHIA – Hundreds of Ukrainians, together with Poles, Georgians and Lithuanians, assembled on Sunday, March 9, near the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia to protest the Russian invasion of Crimea. Waving Ukrainian, Polish and Georgian flags, and holding placards that read “Stop Russian Aggression,” they chanted “Putin hands off Ukraine” and “Boycott Lukoil.” Local television stations picked up the call for the boycott of Lukoil and prominently featured it in their news coverage. There have been multiple demonstrations/rallies on Independence Mall next to the Liberty Bell since the beginning of the year in response to the critical situation in Ukraine. The demonstrations are organized by the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee and Razom.

– Ulana Mazurkevich



The Ukrainian Museum

“Strings Attached” presented at the Ukrainian Museum

NEW YORK – On Saturday, February 8, The Ukrainian Museum hosted a book presentation of “Strings Attached: One Tough Teacher and the Gift of Great Expectations,” the story of Jerry Kupchynsky, a Ukrainian-born music teacher, whose “tough love” teaching approach inspired his students to achieve their life potential. The multi-media presentation included readings of excerpts from the book, enhanced by film clips, recorded music and live performances on violin and viola by Ms. Kupchynsky and Ms. Lipman. Notable was the fact that the full-house audience included a large number of first-time visitors to The Ukrainian Museum, who learned about the event from social media. Pictured in the photos are: (above) co-authors Joanne Lipman and Melanie Kupchynsky with the museum’s program coordinator, Hanya Krill; and (below) members of Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Branch 113, co-sponsor of the well-attended event.

– Lesya Rakowsky



Max Pyziur

New York City honors heroes of Kruty and Maidan

NEW YORK – The New York City branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) organized a memorial service (panakhyda) in honor of the heroes of the 1918 Battle of Kruty, as well as the fallen heroes of the Euro-Maidan in Ukraine. The service was held at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church following the noontime liturgy on January 26.

Dozens of children and students from the Ukrainian American Youth Association, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Self Reliance School of Ukrainian Studies and the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUSTA), along with community representatives from the UCCA New York, Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna, Ukrainian National Women’s League of America, Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine and Women’s Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, participated in the solemn service. Representatives of the Belarusian community also attended to lend their support.

The procession began at the front doors of the church and continued up the main aisle. Ukrainian national and organizational flags led the way, followed by children dressed in traditional Ukrainian shirts and blouses, and then students and community members who carried photos of the fallen Euro-Maidan heroes, as well as wreaths and candles to honor the victims.

UCCA New York President Ivanka Zajac commented on the event, stating, “It is more important now than ever



UCCA

At the memorial service for heroes of Kruty and the Maidan that was held in St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York.

before to support Ukraine in its struggle for democracy and human rights. We want Ukrainians on Maidan to know that we honor them, support them and are ready to help them in anyway that we can.”

In addition to the Ukrainian national flag and flags from local community organizations, the Georgian and Belarusian flags were visible among the hundreds who attended the service.

Lithuanian...

(Continued from page 16)

brutality of the Soviet Communist regime and Russian occupation by current events happening in Ukraine... with the fall of the Soviet Union, the legacy of a corrupt, criminal regime, still pervades the country."

She mentioned the work of Eugene Czolij, president of Ukrainian World Congress, who attended the Vilnius Summit in November 2013 and who spoke in the Lithuanian Parliament, and she noted the steadfast support given by Lithuania.

Ms. Hrycenko-Luhova thanked the people of Lithuania for giving safe haven and medical aid to Dmytro Bulatov, one of the leaders of the Auto-Maidan, who was kidnapped and tortured by secret government forces. She ended by stating that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," aptly reflecting the Lithuanians community's concerns for the final outcome in Ukraine.

Among the distinguished guests at the celebrations were Andris Kesteris, president, Latvian National Federation in Canada; Loreta Gudynaitė-Savitch, presi-

dent, Ottawa branch of the Lithuanian Canadian Community; Daiva Jaugelis-Zatkovic, vice-president, Montreal branch of the Lithuanian Canadian Community; Silvija Staskevicius, president, Montreal branch of the Lithuanian Canadian Community; Martin Stauvers, vice-president of the Montreal Latvian Council; Katrine Kraulis, representative of the Latvian Community of Montreal; Joana Kuras-Lasys, president, National Executive of the Lithuanian Canadian Community; Misha Fuchs, president, Czech and Slovak Association of Canada; and Karl Rausepp, president, Montreal Estonian Society.

Also present were Roberts Klaiše, honorary consul of the Republic of Latvia in Montreal, and Arunas Staskevicius, honorary consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Montreal.

Following the opening speeches and greetings, Honorary Consul Staskevicius invited those present to sign a petition prepared by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, urging the Canadian government's support of Ukraine. The signed petition was mailed to Ottawa.

The event was concluded with a cultural program.

Crimean Tatars...

(Continued from page 3)

expressed will and consent of the Crimean Tatar people.

8) We urge the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to accede to the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

9) We urge to recognize the status of the Crimean Tatar people as an indigenous people of the Crimea, and to support it by the legislation of Ukraine.

10) We urge the Verkhovna Rada and the highest state authorities of Ukraine to

immediately take action along with international organizations (the U.N., the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Union) aimed at the realization of basic rights of the Crimean Tatar people laid down in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to ensure the expression of free will by the Crimean Tatar people for execution of their inalienable right to self-determination in their historical territory of the Crimea.

Chairman of the Mejlis
of the Crimean Tatar People
Refat Chubarov
March 15, 2014, Symferopol

Sportsline

(Continued from page 15)

Alain Chervet (5-0-2, 4 KO) of Switzerland after six rounds, with judges scoring 58-56, 57-58, 57-57.

• Ukraine hosted a fight night at the Sport Life Club in Kyiv on December 26, 2013. Super welterweight Illya Prymak (6-0, 6 KO) defeated Aleksandre Benidze (13-13-2, 6 KO) of Georgia after a unanimous decision after six rounds, 59-55, 59-55, 59-56; super lightweight Viktor Postol (24-0, 10 KO) defeated Behzod Nabiev (22-6-1, 16 KO) of Uzbekistan after 10 rounds, with a unanimous decision by the judges, 100-87, 100-87, 100-87; featherweight Oleg Malinovsky (10-0, 2 KO) defeated Nikoloz Berkatsashvili (20-8-0, 8 KO) of Georgia with a TKO in the third round of eight; and super middleweight Ruslan Schelev (10-1, 6 KO) lost by unanimous decision against Marat Kulumbegov (12-0-1, 7 KO) of Russia, 78-74, 78-74, 77-75.

• Super welterweight Sasha Yengoyan (28-1-1, 19 KO) of Belgium defeated Igor Faniyan (14-6-2, 7 KO) with a KO in the seventh round of eight at the Spothal Izegem in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, on December 25. Light welterweight Ivan Grynyuk (7-3-1, 3 KO) tied with Kobe Venerkerkhove (23-18-4, 6 KO) of Belgium with a split decision after six rounds, with judges scoring 57-57, 56-58, 58-57.

• Middleweight Evhen Khytrov (1-0, 1 KO) defeated Christian Nava (2-5-1, 0 KO) of the U.S.A. with a first-round TKO on December 18 at Webster Hall in New York. The fight was scheduled for eight rounds.

• In amateur rankings of the AIBA, Maria Badulina of Ukraine tops the women's 69-kg division, followed by Raquel Miller

(U.S.A.) and Dong Mei Wang (China).

Athletics

• Ukraine won three medals – two bronze and one silver – at the 15th IAAF World Indoor Championships in Athletics on March 7-9 at Ergo Arena in Sopot, Poland. Olha Saladukha won silver in the women's triple jump (14.45 meters), Andriy Protesenko won bronze in the men's high jump (2.36-meters), and Alina Fiodorova (424 points) won bronze in the women's pentathlon. Ukraine's medal tally placed it in 19th place.

• Hanna Melnychenko won gold in the heptathlon at the 2013 IAAF Combined Events Challenge. The event combines no less than 16 meetings, and even elite athletes have a difficult time completing three competitions. By the end of the year, only 10 male and 16 female athletes had completed the requisite three meetings to qualify. Melnychenko, who finished five heptathlons this year, recorded victories at the IAAF World Championships in Moscow, with 6,586 points; and 6,308 points at the meet in Talence, France,

Biathlon

• Ukraine won its first gold in the junior relay competition at the 21st Biathlon European Championship in Nove Mesto na Morave, the Czech Republic, held January 29-February 4. Brygynets Zhuravok, Dotsenko and Artem Tyschenko scored 12 out of 12, and finished in a time of 1:14:32.0 seconds. The competition attracted athletes from 33 countries, with 15 events held throughout the tournament. Anastasia Merkusheva, who normally competes as a junior, qualified for the adult competition. Tyschenko won silver in the men's pursuit race. Yana Bondar won bronze in the sprint, with a time of 26.22.2 seconds.



Petro Bevza Mykola Zhuravel

FOLLOWING THE INNER LIGHT МИ ПРОСТО ІШЛИ



An art project
celebrating the
Bicentennial of
**TARAS
SHEVCHENKO's**
Birth



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OUT & ABOUT

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|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Ongoing every Sunday New York | AutoMaidan New York, vehicular protest with stops throughout Manhattan, 516-702-2906 or https://facebook.com/events/763095557043243 | March 30 Chicago | Taras Shevchenko Bicentennial Concert, "Remembering the Words of Our Poet," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, www.uima-chicago.org or 773-227-5522 |
| March 24 Cambridge, MA | Seminar with Sofia Dyak, "(Re)imagined Cityscapes: Lviv (Ukraine) and Wroclaw (Poland) after 1944-1945," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu | March 30-April 11 Scranton, PA | Display of Shroud of Turin replica, with presentation by the Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-342-7023 |
| March 25 New York | Presentation by Alexander Lukin, "The Clash of Values in the Modern World: Prospects for Eurasian Integration," Columbia University, www.harriman.columbia.edu | March 31 Cambridge, MA | Seminar with Yuliya Ladygina, "Writing World War I: Olha Kobylanska's Late Fiction, 1914-1936," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu |
| March 26 New York | Presentation by Arnoldas Prackevicius, Thomas F. Remington and Alexei Pikulik, "Does Russia Call the Shots in Eastern Europe?" Yale Club of New York City, gedmin.bubnyte@ehu.lt (rsvp only) | March 31 Cambridge, MA | Symposium, "200th Anniversary of the Birth of Taras Shevchenko," Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu |
| March 26 Ottawa | Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture by Sofiya Dyak, "Doing Histories in Ukraine: Public Engagement, Historical Dialogue Addressing the Past in Contemporary Ukraine," Labelle Hall (Chapel), University of Ottawa, www.ukrainianstudies.uottawa.ca | April 4-6 Sloatsburg, NY | Lenten Retreat, League Of Ukrainian Catholics of America, St. Mary's Villa Educational and Retreat Center, 201-846-3960 or mc.hrubic@att.net |
| March 27-April 20 New York | Art exhibit, "Petro Bevza and Mykola Zhuravel: Following the Inner Light, An Art Project Celebrating the Bicentennial of Taras Shevchenko's Birth," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or www.ukrainianinstitute.org | April 5 Winnipeg | Pysanka workshop, Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218 |
| March 27-April 20 New York | Art exhibit, "Petro Bevza and Mykola Zhuravel: Following the Inner Light, An Art Project Celebrating the Bicentennial of Taras Shevchenko's Birth," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or www.ukrainianinstitute.org | April 5 New York | Film screening, "I am Ukrainian," by Yulia Marushevskaya and "A Whisper to a Roar" by Ben Moses, The Ukrainian Museum, www.ukrainianmuseum.org or 212-228-0110 |
| March 28 Washington | Book presentation by Peter Fedynsky, "Kobzar," Embassy of Ukraine, emb_us@mfa.gov.ua | April 5-6 Silver Spring, MD | Ukrainian Easter Bazaar, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 716-903-5485 or 240-669-8566 |
| March 28 Ottawa | Photo exhibit, "The Hutsuls," featuring work by Youri Bilak, Ukrainian National Federation - Ottawa-Gatineau, Villa Marconi Historical Center, 819-775-5066 | April 7 Cambridge, MA | Seminar with Vitaliy Mykhaylovskiy, "Regional Peculiarities of Noble Communities in Ukrainian Lands in the 14th-16th Centuries," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu |
| March 29 Winnipeg, MB | Etched pysanka workshop, Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218 | | |

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, March 28

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh-A), together with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A. (UVAN) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) invite all to the scholarly conference dedicated to the bicentennial of Taras Shevchenko. Opening remarks will be delivered by George G. Grabowicz, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Ukrainian-language papers will be presented by Oleksandr Boron (Shevchenko Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), "An Early Prose by Panteleimon Kulish and Prose Writings by Taras Shevchenko: The Comparative Aspect"; Oles Fedoruk (Shevchenko Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), "Symbols and Image of Taras Shevchenko on the Euromaidan"; Mykhailo Nazarenko (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv), "A Folklore Image of Taras Shevchenko: Typology and Parallels." The conference will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Avenue (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information, call 212-254-5130.

Saturday, March 29

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh-A), together with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in USA (UVAN) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) invite all to the second day of the scholarly conference dedicated to the Bicentennial of Taras Shevchenko which will consist of Ukrainian-language and English-language panels. Opening remarks will be delivered by George G. Grabowicz, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Ukrainian-language papers will be presented by Tamara Hundorova (Shevchenko Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), "Taras Shevchenko and Populist Concept of Culture"; and Ihor Hyrych (Institute of Archeology of Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences), "Taras Shevchenko in

the Ideology of the Kyivska Hromada: A Construction of Modern Ukrainian Myth." The English-language panel will consist of Roman Koropecykj (University of California), "Note 19 in Taras Shevchenko's 'Haidamaky' "; Vitaly Chernetsky (University of Kansas), "Shevchenko's Writing in the Context of Global Anti-Colonial Resistance"; Anna Procyk (Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York) "Reflections of Young Europe's Political Thought in the Poetry of Shevchenko"; and George G. Grabowicz (Shevchenko Scientific Society), "Taras Shevchenko: The National Poet Revisited." The conference will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of America, located on 2 E 79th New York, NY 10075, at 11 a.m. For additional information, call 212-288-8660.

Sunday, March 30

NEW YORK: The Roma Pryma Bohachevsky School of Dance invites you to its concert celebrating 50 years of Ukrainian dance education in the tradition of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky. The concert will feature students of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky School of Dance, affiliated schools and the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. Tickets priced at \$40 for orchestra seats and \$30 for balcony seats are available at the Kaye Playhouse box office on 68th Street between Park and Lexington avenues, the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky School of Dance, or by calling 718-357-6288. The concert is sponsored by Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union.

Saturday, April 5

NEW YORK: Join us at 7 p.m. to meet Yulia Marushevska, the Taras Shevchenko University student in Kyiv, who captivated the world in the Euro-Maidan video titled "I Am a Ukrainian" that went viral overnight. Filmmaker Ben Moses will present the video and his film "A Whisper to a Roar" (2012) about courageous democracy activists in five countries (Egypt, Malaysia, Ukraine, Venezuela and Zimbabwe), who risk it all to bring freedom to their people. Admission includes reception and gallery access): \$15; \$10 for members, seniors; \$5 for students. Tickets are available at www.ukrainianmuseum.org or by calling 212-228-0110. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.

Saturday, April 12

YONKERS, N.Y.: Branch 2 of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna (known by its Ukrainian acronym as OOL) invites you to a Lemko Pysanka Decorating Workshop, taught by Basia Barna Andrusko at noon-2 pm at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 21 Shonnard Place, Yonkers, NY 10703. Cost is \$20 per participant (\$15 for OOL members) which includes all required materials (eggs, dye, wax, use of tools, etc.). Each participant will create a unique and beautiful egg using the Lemko drop-pull technique. The class is open to adults and children age 12 and older. Space is limited and registration is required at www.lemko-ool.com/pysanka_workshop. For more information, contact Basia at andrusko12@comcast.net or 267-918-9172.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**.

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com; payment should be sent to Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**

IN SHEVCHENKO'S LAND



Taras Shevchenko
Matchmakers, 1844, etching

IN SHEVCHENKO'S LAND

the first of two exhibitions organized in celebration of the bicentennial of Taras Shevchenko's birth

Icons, ritual cloths, and costumes

Opens to the public on March 29, 2014

Due to the current situation in Ukraine, the major exhibition *Taras Shevchenko: Poet, Artist, Icon*, organized in cooperation with the Taras Shevchenko National Museum in Kyiv, is scheduled to open on May 11, 2014

 The Ukrainian Museum
222 East 6th Street
New York, NY 10003
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F: 212.228.1947
info@ukrainianmuseum.org
www.ukrainianmuseum.org

Museum hours:
Wednesday – Sunday
11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meet YULIA MARUSHEVSKA, the Taras Shevchenko University student in Kyiv, Ukraine, and EuroMaidan protester who captivated the world in a video that went viral overnight.



Ben Moses will screen the video *I Am a Ukrainian* (2013) and a short about Yulia made for Polish audiences, and he will present his film *A Whisper To A Roar* (2012) about courageous democracy activists in five countries (Egypt, Malaysia, Ukraine, Venezuela and Zimbabwe), who risk it all to bring freedom to their people. Former president Viktor Yushchenko is featured in the segment on Ukraine. Q&A with Yulia and Ben will follow the screenings.

Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 7 p.m.



THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM

222 East 6th Street • New York, NY 10003
www.ukrainianmuseum.org

The Ukrainian Museum's film series is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



Admission (includes reception & gallery access): \$15; members, seniors: \$10; students: \$5
Order tickets online or call 212.228.0110