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**1. Ukraine hands Israel Holocaust mass grave evidence
Reuters, 14 November 2007**

JERUSALEM - Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko handed to Israel on Wednesday hundreds of previously classified documents detailing mass grave sites of Jews murdered during the Holocaust in the former Soviet state.

During a visit to Jerusalem, Yushchenko gave Israeli President Shimon Peres a box containing documents and maps locating Jewish mass graves, Peres's office said in a statement.

Peres welcomed the move and said the documents would "shed light on one of the darkest periods of Jewish history and Ukrainian history". The papers also traced the fate of Jewish activists killed under Soviet rule in the Ukraine.

"We don't deny the past but we are looking to the future and we ask Israel to see us as a faithful partner," Peres's office quoted Yushchenko as saying to Peres.

Yushchenko, whose father was a prison labourer in Auschwitz, also donned a black skull-cap and visited the Western Wall remnant of the ancient Jewish temple during his visit.

Mass killing of Jews was routine in many towns and villages in Ukraine during World War Two. The Nazis slaughtered more than 33,000 Jews in two days in 1941 at Babiy Yar, a ravine outside Kiev that was one of the first sites of mass wartime killing.

Seeking refuge from a long history of anti-Semitism, some one million immigrants from the former Soviet Union have moved to Israel since the fall of Communism in 1990.

Yushchenko also handed over declassified papers about Jewish underground activities in Ukraine during the 1920s. (Reporting by Rebecca Harrison and Ari Rabinovitch; editing by Ralph Boulton)

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL1477690>

2. Peres gets info on Holocaust-era graves **By GREER FAY CASHMAN** **Jerusalem Post, 14 November 2007**

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on Wednesday presented President Shimon Peres with a box containing scores of declassified documents pertaining to the Jewish underground's activities in Ukraine from the 1920s until the end of World War II.

The documents contain the names of Jewish underground leaders, details of their murders and the locations of their graves.

Peres said he was extremely moved to receive the documents, as well as 800 Torah scrolls. Both were symbols of the current good relations between Israel and Ukraine, he said.

In welcoming Yushchenko to Israel, Peres noted that although there had been many rays of light during the Jewish people's long history in Ukraine, there had also been great darkness. Nonetheless, he said, it was important to look forward as well as backward.

"We must not erase the past, but we cannot neglect the future," said Peres.

Peres also remarked on how although there had been harsh periods for Jews in Ukraine, Jewish culture had developed there to an extraordinary degree. Borrowing from the old adage that from Kiev, one can smell Europe, Peres said that from Kiev and Odessa, one could taste Israel.

Two Israeli presidents and three of the country's prime ministers were born in Ukraine, he said, as were many prominent rabbis, poets such as Haim Nahman Bialik and Uri Zvi Greenberg, and author Shalom Aleichem.

Altogether, said Peres, some 500,000 Israelis were of Ukrainian origin, and many of them had been involved in the creation and development of the state.

In his private discussions with Peres, Yushchenko expressed a desire for Ukraine to become part of the Middle East peace process and said his country would be willing to host Israeli-Palestinian dialogues in the hope that a greater understanding could be reached between the two sides.

Because Ukraine, like Israel, has an impressive defense industry, Yushchenko also suggested that cooperation in this field could be mutually beneficial.

In fact, he was keen to upgrade relations with Israel at all levels, and agreed with Peres that the Middle East peace process should be conducted on an economic track parallel to the political track.

Yushchenko affirmed his country's respect for Israel and the Jewish people and said that even though there was still some stereotyped anti-Semitism in Ukraine, as a matter of policy, there was no anti-Semitism or Zionophobia.

The State of Israel is very important, both in the Middle East and globally, he said, and "although three hours separate us, there are many things that unite us."

In presenting the declassified documents to Peres, Yushchenko said this was further evidence of the importance Ukraine attaches to its relations with Israel.

"In the State of Israel, we see partners on all issues, both regional and global," he said.

Peres and Yushchenko signed a partnership agreement, and a memorandum of cooperation on the European Football Championships, which will be hosted by Poland and Ukraine in 2012, was signed by Industry, Trade and Labor Minister Eli Yishai and Ukrainian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Yurii Koslenko.

Sources on both sides unofficially stated that the memorandum related to security precautions in which Israel had greater expertise than Ukraine.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?c=JPArticle&cid=1195036606392&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

3. Ukrainian president condemns anti-Semitism in Knesset speech By Shahar Ilan and Yair Ettinger Haaretz, 14 November 2007

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko condemned anti-Semitism before the Knesset plenum in Jerusalem on Wednesday, but did not apologize for his country's role in the Holocaust.

Yushchenko told the Knesset his country would not tolerate any form of anti-Semitism or xenophobia. "We will fight against these evils that poison all good things," he said, adding that a museum commemorating the Holocaust is currently under construction in the Ukraine.

Before speaking at the Knesset, he toured the old city of Jerusalem and placed a prayer between the stones of the Western Wall. Western Wall Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitz said Yushchenko told him the objective of his visit to Israel was to "express solidarity with the Jewish people and their heritage and pray at the religion's holiest site."

Knesset Speaker Dalia Itzik did not mention Ukrainian participation in the Holocaust while addressing Yushchenko, but did echo his sentiments on Stalin's massacre of Ukrainians.

On a tour of Jerusalem on Wednesday, Yushchenko and his wife Kateryna visited Israel's Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem, where he was presented with documents concerning his father's

imprisonment by the Nazis. Andrej Juschtschenko, the president's father, was a Soviet soldier who was captured in 1944 and imprisoned for a year.

Yushchenko appeared introspective while touring exhibits highlighting the killing of 1.4 million of Ukraine's 2.4 million Jews during the Holocaust.

His wife, Kateryna Yushchenko's was moved to tears by an exhibit about the Babi Yar massacre, in which 33,711 Jews were rounded up and shot on the edge of a ravine in Kiev between Sept. 29-30, 1941. The Nazis then buried some alive and beat others with shovels. Yushchenko gave the museum a sample of soil and a rock from the site.

Yuschenko said his country sought to play a role in efforts to forge peace between Israel and the Palestinians, and President Shimon Peres suggested that Kiev help with money.

Speaking at a joint news conference at Peres' official residence, Yushchenko said he held the relationship between Israel and Ukraine in high regard and suggested the two countries have a shared future, despite a difficult history.

"In the state of Israel we see a loyal partner and the best friend in all areas relating both to regional and global issues," Yushchenko said. "Ukraine wishes to play a role in the peace process."

Ukraine's powerful neighbor, Russia, is a member of the Quartet of international peacemakers, with the United States, United Nations and the European Union. Peres said he told his guest that helping bankroll peace projects would be more welcome than additional political engagement.

"Parallel to the political process there is now also an economic process, and I suggest that Ukraine take part in building the economic peace," Peres said. "I think the president (Yushchenko) liked this idea."

In World War II, some 1.4 million of Ukraine's 2.4 million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust, most famously in the Babi Yar massacre where more than 33,000 Jews were executed at the edge of a ravine in Kiev between September 29-30, 1941. Nazis rounded up the Jews and shot them on a platform built over the ravine, burying some alive and beating other survivors with shovels.

"We don't need to erase the past, nor should we neglect the future," said Peres. There have been some very difficult chapters in our history.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/924062.html>

4. Ukraine President Assures ADL of Commitment to Counter Anti-Semitism Anti-Defamation League, 14 November 2007

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko assured a visiting delegation of Anti-Defamation League (ADL) leaders that he and his administration are firmly committed to finding effective means to prevent acts and expressions of anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Ukraine, and to vigorously investigate and prosecute perpetrators of such hate crimes. Working through the national Security Service, ADL experts will provide training on hate crimes to Ukraine's law enforcement agencies, as it does in the United States and in several countries.

The delegation of ADL senior national leadership, headed by Glen S. Lewy, ADL National Chair, and Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director, were in Kiev for meetings with government officials and representatives of the Ukraine Jewish community. The delegation met with senior officials in the Yushchenko administration, the First Deputy Foreign Minister, and the new Chief of the Department Combating Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism within the national Security Service.

The major subject of discussion focused on the recent alarming levels of anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Ukraine and the response from governmental leaders and civil society. While noting that the government has made progress in reducing the impact of anti-Semitic material originating from the campus of MAUP (the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management), ADL leaders urged the government to do more to further marginalize MAUP.

Mr. Lewy and Mr. Foxman issued the following statement:

We received strong assurances from President Yushchenko that he and his administration are firmly committed to finding effective means to prevent acts and expressions of anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Ukraine and to vigorously investigate and prosecute perpetrators of such hate crimes. We welcome the establishment of a new inter-ministerial committee under the direction of the national Security Service that is charged with the responsibility for centralizing and focusing the resources of the Ukraine government on fighting these hate crimes.

In our meeting with representatives of the national Security Service we heard in detail the plans underway to address the problems of hate crimes in Ukraine, particularly those motivated by anti-Semitism, and we were pleased that our offer to cooperate with the Security Service was accepted. ADL will be providing training to members of the Ukraine law enforcement community.

In partnership with the Jewish Community of Ukraine, ADL will help adapt its A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute® peer-training program for high school students.

We are pleased with the willingness of the Ukraine government and Jewish community to work with ADL to find ways to combat hatred, bigotry, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in Ukraine.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.adl.org/PresRele/ASInt_13/5178_13.htm

5. Yushchenko Smooths over Award Gaff in Izrael Kommersant, 14 November 2007

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko completes his visit to Israel today. The culmination of his three-day visit was his address to the Knesset. Speaker of the Knesset Dahlia Itzik gave Yushchenko a warm welcome, calling him the leader of a "young democracy" and recalling that Ukraine was the home of a vibrant Jewish culture and birthplace of second Israeli president Itzhak Ben-Zvi and prime minister Golda Meir.

Itzik went on to say that she was concerned with the growing number of displays of anti-Semitism, nationalism and neo-Nazism in Ukraine and Yushchenko's awarding of the title Hero of Ukraine to nationalist leader Roman Shukhevich, who collaborated with the Nazis during World War Two. Itzik called "the most shocking fact" the anti-Semitism of the well-known state Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, where the management's support for Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's call to "wipe Israel from the face of the earth" attracted wide attention a few years ago.

Yushchenko responded by comparing the Ukrainian and Jewish peoples, both of whom came out of slavery. He mentioned that the first holocaust museum in Eastern Europe was being built in Ukraine and reminded his audience of the Torah scrolls he brought with him to Israel, which had been confiscated in Soviet times and kept in the Ukrainian national archive.

Yushchenko wanted to visit Israel in the spring of this year for the holocaust memorial day. Ukraine has long sought international recognition of the artificially-induced famine in Ukraine in 1932-1933 as genocide. Israel refused Yushchenko's request at that time, citing the busy schedule of Israeli leaders.

No acknowledgement of the Ukrainian genocide was made during this trip. Israel has also ignored Armenia's request to recognize the Armenian genocide of 1915.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.kommersant.com/p825257/foreign_relations/

6. Ukraine denies receiving planes of CIA at its air bases Sinhua, 14 November 2007

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry rejected statements by some western politicians that planes of the CIA landed at a Ukrainian air base on Wednesday.

"Ukraine's air bases have never received planes of the CIA," Andriy Lysenko, head of the press service of the Defense Ministry, told reporters in Kiev.

"Statements on the matter are absolutely ungrounded, incompetent and look simply absurd," he said.

Reports surfaced in Western media on Wednesday that Giovanni Claudio Fava, the European MP investigating the secret operations of the CIA in Europe, said that CIA aircraft landed at an air base in Ukraine.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-11/15/content_7076863.htm

7. Zbigniew Brzezinski: "Ukraine Should Not Hesitate to Say to Its Younger brother, Russia, That It Should Learn Ukrainian Political Culture Ukrayinska Prawda, 14 November 2007

This is Mr. Brzezinski's speech on Ukraine which he made at a round table "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood."

I want to begin by congratulating the people of Ukraine on their political maturity. They've shown it once again. They have shown that they have a political culture of which they have reason to be proud. A political culture which is part of the universal political culture of democracy. That is to say, agreeing to disagree, debating fiercely, dividing politically, all within a constitutional process that is enduring. That's a significant accomplishment and I think the Ukrainian people have reason to be proud of it.

In fact, Ukraine should not hesitate to say to its younger brother, Russia, that it should learn Ukrainian political culture. I see some people smiling, 'younger brother?' Russia is the younger brother of Ukraine to anyone who knows history. And politically, Ukraine has shown maturity and ability to compromise of the kind that Russia has yet to demonstrate. Look at the several presidential elections. Look at the several parliamentary elections. There is one very simple test of democratic electoral processes. If you can't be sure who is going to win, and if your predictions often turn out to be wrong, you know it's a democracy. I have no difficulty in predicting Russian elections whatsoever. We know their outcome. And that tells you something.

So the younger brother should learn from the older brother and I think we should also learn because I remember when Ukraine came into being, the dire predictions, the dire predictions about Ukraine. Ukraine will not endure. I remember some very competent intelligence analysts telling us that Ukraine will split into two, that the country is inherently unstable. That maybe, maybe western Ukraine, Galicia, might end up independent, but the rest, probably not.

Look at the last elections; there is an increasing cross-cutting pattern of voting. Tymoshenko made significant successes in the east. Actually Yanukovych even gained a few votes in the west, and the country is increasing voting as a unit. If you want another example, go back to the days – the brief days, fortunately – of what might be called the mini crisis of Tusla, the little island in the Sea of Azov,

which by some peculiar logic, the Russian Federation tried to draw into its own terrain by transforming it from an island to a peninsula attached to the Russian Federation. Do you remember how the Ukrainians reacted? All of them, all of them, President Kuchma flew back from Brazil, and stood on the shores of Tusla proclaiming fiercely, 'this is Ukrainian territory.' And look at the resolution of the Rada. I believe the vote was close to unanimous, if not unanimous, including the Communists. Voting fiercely that the territorial integrity of Ukraine is untouchable.

So we know that Ukraine is a success as a nation state. Ukraine is here to stay and there is no doubt about that. Ukraine is part of the European scene, there's no doubt about that. Ukraine is part of the European political culture. It has demonstrated that. Ukraine is part of European culture, and anyone who visits Kyiv, even briefly, sees countless evidences of that. And that is an enduring reality, to which everyone has to adjust. And in adjusting, one has to get rid of one's ignorance.

When Ukraine became independent, many people in this country weren't quite sure what it is and where it is. It was even referred to as 'THE' Ukraine, rather than as Ukraine. But that is now changing. But it is also important that in Ukraine there be also change. And I have something very specific in mind. Namely, a country, a nation is a reality when it has a profound historical awareness of itself – historical awareness of itself. And that is important because a country without a memory is like a human being without a brain, without a self-awareness. I was struck by that several years ago when I was in Kyiv and I decided in the course of my visit just to pay personal homage in the area of Bykivnya, which I'm sure most of you know about. When I spoke to a senior Ukrainian close associate of President Kuchma, he did not know what Bykivnya was, he actually didn't know what it was. And I suspect that a lot of other Ukrainians in recent past have had no awareness of Bykivnya and it is important to know these things. This is why the resolution in the Rada about genocide is historically and politically important. It's a landmark. It reminds people of things that have happened it reminds people of the importance of being independent and in charge of your own country. And that is taking place in Ukraine. And that is all to the good and is part and parcel of the much more complex technical and financial issues that you have been discussing about Europe's, or the European Union's, relationship with Ukraine.

There has to be a vital, thriving, politically successful Ukraine for it to be part of Europe and Europe has to adjust its own vision of the East to realize that the frontiers of Europe do not end at the Buh River. The fact is that Europe is a dynamic reality, but simultaneously a part of its own history and culture, and Ukraine is a part of that history and that culture.

After the recent elections, Ukraine has a chance again to demonstrate in practice its political maturity. I think the people have demonstrated it by their vote, not only by the specific character of the vote, which I happen to applaud, because I believe the Orange Revolution actually put the final stamp, the end to the issue of whether Ukraine is going to endure or not. That was several years ago. But it is also important to demonstrate political leadership. Show that it is mature. In response to the politically mature people. And that means that the people must have a clear notion of responsibility and accountability for political decisions and political programs. The whole notion of democracy is a notion of competition of programs and a competition of leadership and then accountability and responsibility for performance of leadership, and the latter cannot be fuzzed, the latter must not be obscured. The problem of responsibility and accountability must be sharply defined. And this is why I think President Yushchenko has a real opportunity to put in place a seriously working and effectively working system of responsibility and accountability based essentially on two parties – a majority formation and a minority formation. The majority formation may be a two-party coalition, it can even be a partial grand coalition if some members of the opposition want to be a part of it, but it should not be a government which obscures accountability and responsibility by fuzzing the division between the programs and the division between the elites with alternative programs, because that absence creates political cynicism and creates the impression of 'we the nation' and 'they the elite' and reinforces the belief that the elite is corrupt and makes amongst itself and is never accountable to the people.

The alternatives that are involved in this cycle of leadership and governorship is an important aspect of democracy and President Yushchenko now has the opportunity to institutionalize that, either through a two-party coalition or a two-party plus coalition, maybe even in a very vague sense, a partial grand coalition, but certainly not a complete grand coalition in which fuzzes accountability and responsibility.

Prime Minister Tymoshenko has now an opportunity to show that she is a genuine national leader, and she has gotten a big boost through the elections in that affirmation. But she also has the opportunity to govern in a manner that demonstrates that she is not only an electoral populist, but a responsible national leader, who can formulate policies for the long-run, without passion but with commitment. With firmness, but without vengeance, in a manner that gains her support and enduring respect. She has shown enormous political talent and is obviously a rising star in the Ukrainian political firmament. And now she has an opportunity to translate these talents into enduring leadership.

Former Prime Minister Yanukovich also has an opportunity to show himself to be a responsible opposition leader. Not the preferred choice of a major neighboring country, but a genuine Ukrainian national leader who partakes of the general thrust of Ukraine into Europe. And he has said that during his recent service as prime minister, but the taste in the pudding is in the eating and one has to demonstrate that commitment, not only verbally when in office, but in practice when the opposition leader and facilitate those steps as a leader to make Ukraine a possible participant in the larger European adventure.

So in different ways, each of the three political leaders of Ukraine has now a historical chance, a historical opportunity to prove to everyone that Ukraine is not only a national success, but that it is a country that is closing the inevitable gap between itself and what is west of it. That gap is not the fault of the Ukrainians. It is a consequence of the absence of freedom, of the absence of independence, of the presence of communism for so many decades and of subjugation with a large imperial system for centuries. If you consider all of these causes for the gap, you have to be impressed how narrow the gap today is. And how close is the day when Ukraine is going to be a full-scale participant in the European adventure. One can talk endlessly about the problems to be resolved, the criteria to be met, the standards to be satisfied, the shortcomings to be overcome, but the fact is that the momentum is in that direction. And Europe is also changing its view of Ukraine. The ignorance that I sensed in this country about Ukraine 15 years ago was equally widespread in Europe, maybe not as widespread but close to it. Today that's dramatically changing and the picture of Ukraine as a normal European country is gradually becoming the predominant one. And in that there is not only a hopeful perspective for Ukraine, there is a longer range and further hopeful perspective. I am deeply convinced, truly convinced, strategically convinced, that as Ukraine moves toward Europe, the imperial option for Russia closes forever and Russia then only has one option – to follow suit in the lead of its older brother. And that is a very hopeful and serious prospect, because eventually Russia has no choice if you look at the vast space of Russia and its demographic crises, the rising power of its eastern neighbors. If Russia doesn't move toward Europe, a different promise will be fulfilled. A promise which was once made allegorically, but which has an ominous geographical definition to it. 'Europe to the Urals'; remember General De Gaulle when he talked about Europe to the Urals. He wasn't suggesting that Russia be partitioned, he actually meant Russia in Europe. Russia in Europe to Vladivostok may be an attractive option for Russia, but if they fail to exercise it, they face an ominous uncertainty in the future. So Ukraine, in a way, offers not only a lesson, but a hopeful avenue for Russia, and an avenue that all of us in the West should hope that Russia will pursue. Because it would be in the interest of the larger West if Russia, in time, became more closely and more genuinely associated with the West.

Ukraine poses a truly momentous geopolitical challenge to all of us, but I think it is a challenge that today, shortly after the Ukrainian elections and in part particularly because of the outcome of the elections, we can view with increasing optimism.

Permanent Link: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/11/14/9433.htm>

**8. To Pliushch et al: Toe the line or step aside for someone who will
Kyiv Post, 14 November 2007**

"Individuals may form communities, but it is institutions alone that can create a nation."

– Benjamin Disraeli

"Democracy means government by discussion, but it is only effective if you can stop people talking."

– *Clement Atlee*

Politics in Ukraine's fledgling republic has a reputation of being a dirty business. While political assassinations and massive vote rigging belong more and more to the past than the present, the country's status as a democracy remains tenuous at best.

In Ukraine, those holding public office often cause the greatest harm to the country and its democratic institutions, particularly parliament, by disregarding the spirit in which these institutions were created and putting individual interests ahead of the nation.

As the great British statesman Benjamin Disraeli once put it, it is these institutions – not merely individuals – that collectively define and create a nation. Sadly, the erosion of these institutions only increases when ignorance and naivety are introduced into the mix, especially by the president of the republic.

It's been more than a month since the Sept. 30 early parliamentary elections, and several months since President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party and a cluster of other pro-presidential parties signed an agreement with Yulia Tymoshenko's eponymous bloc (Byut) to form a government following a positive election outcome. The elections went in their collective favor and, as had been long understood, members of the Our Ukraine bloc and those of Byut negotiated and reached an agreement on forming the government – a government that would be exclusive of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and his Russian-leaning Party of Regions. Today, the agreement remains in limbo and in jeopardy of falling apart.

Three figures in the Our Ukraine bloc have openly defied the president and refused to sign the coalition agreement. Instead of finalizing it, they are being openly critical of it. Among them is Ivan Pliushch, the former head of Ukraine's powerful National Security and Defense Council and a long-time ally of former President Leonid Kuchma, who himself has unsurprisingly called for the Regions to be included in the new government.

Former prime minister and Our Ukraine deputy-elect Yuriy Yekhanurov has also joined the fray, saying he will not serve under Tymoshenko.

The present deal has been long in coming, however, making it farcical that powerful men such as these could come out and say they did not know or agree on the details of the pact beforehand or failed to understand its implications – that it entailed a Tymoshenko-led government.

In what is already a razor-thin governing coalition, this kind of a rebellion at such an early stage could be extremely damaging for the parliamentary process in Ukraine. While voting one's conscience is a hallmark of democracy, so is backing up election promises. This rebellion puts people ahead of politics and completely flies in the face of the Our Ukraine campaign slogan of "One law for all."

Crucially here, President Yushchenko has so far neither admonished these men publicly, nor called for them to sign on. To make matters worse, he has not given public support to the coalition and has even reiterated remarks he made immediately following the vote regarding the need for as broad a governing coalition as possible – meaning one that includes the Regions. The new parliament could be doomed before it is even sworn in, though it needn't be. All Ukraine needs is for Yushchenko to enforce a simple but important lesson in parliamentary democracy: Toe the line, or step aside for someone who will.

The time for disagreements over the coalition deal is over; 225 of 228 deputies are already onboard; Pliushch, et al, are stonewalling democracy. Governments with the narrowest of majorities, such as OU-Byut, require the strictest of party discipline to survive in the face of determined opposition. Given the overwhelming support that Byut received in the September poll, Pliushch has little right to speak out against the present agreement. Without Byut, he and Our Ukraine would be a sorry stepsister in a Regions-led governing coalition, and not on the equal footing they are close to enjoying today.

Yushchenko needs to make that abundantly clear to everyone involved in this issue.

Despite the president's bungling of his first year in power and his handling of everything, from his alleged poisoning to the ongoing murder investigation of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze, it's hard to imagine that he is so ignorant and naive as to forget recent lessons from history.

Will Yushchenko really allow this hard-won but fragile coalition to be undermined, and throw away yet another chance to build on Ukraine's democratic foundations by letting party backbenchers shoot their mouths off in the press? He's running out of time to show his current and future allies, or more importantly, Ukrainian voters, that he supports parliamentary democracy, the Our Ukraine-Byut coalition, and will bring party backbenchers to heel to support both.

I applauded President Yushchenko when he spoke after the election about the need for as broad a governing coalition as possible, but now it's time for him to silence the critics and use his power to close this deal. Is the pre-election coalition agreement not what he agreed to or saw as a possible outcome before the election? Then he should resign, or voters will show him the door anyway. If the president needs any examples as to what happens to "Orange" parties that negotiate in bad faith, he should consider the fate of his one-time allies, Oleksandr Moroz and the Socialist Party.

For the sake of the country and for parliamentary democracy in Ukraine, President Yushchenko needs to make an example of Pliushch, the other two holdouts, and any other loose cannons in Our Ukraine, by sacking them. The good of the country and all Ukrainians depends on it.

Paul Miazga is a former senior editor of the Kyiv Post.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.kyivpost.com/opinion/oped/27799/>

9. Analysts: President mulls 'no coalition' option **By Zenon Zawada** **Kyiv Post, 14 November 2007**

Should a new government emerge from the dragging coalition talks, political observers are increasingly convinced it will be a messy compromise.

Gaining steam is the notion that no new government will be formed, a theory circulated by political insider Volodymyr Fesenko, who has extensive experience working with major political players, including the Presidential Secretariat.

"I am reminded of Trotsky's famous phrase, 'No peace, no war, and dismiss the army,'" Mr. Fesenko told a Nov. 9 round table on political strategy.

"The matter hasn't reached the point of dismissing the army. But to paraphrase regarding the Verkhovna Rada's possible work, it would be, 'No coalition, no opposition and no dismissing the Verkhovna Rada.'"

As President Viktor Yushchenko and his influential Secretariat chair, Viktor Baloha attempt to appease the nation's three major political forces, they are considering as a quick fix the so-called "no coalition" scenario, which involves Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and his Cabinet of Ministers remaining in place as an acting government, analysts said.

The situation of no coalition emerging, or possibly a de jure Orange coalition under a de facto Yanukovich government, is gaining plausibility because it provides an exit out of the current zero-sum game that is intolerable to the three major political forces.

"I don't exclude this situation, which benefits all the politicians involved," said Svitlana Kononchuk, director of political programs at the Kyiv-based Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research, partly financed by the National Endowment for Democracy.

The Ukrainian Constitution requires the first parliamentary session to occur within 30 days of official publication of election results (Oct. 27), and the formation of a coalition government within another 30 days.

Playing the role of kingmaker, Yushchenko and the pro-presidential Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc is in position to form a coalition with either Yanukovych's Regions Party or the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

Though the president's ideal outcome would involve bringing all of Ukraine's biggest forces into a single wide coalition, the Tymoshenko Bloc refuses to enter into a coalition with the Regions because it would undermine Tymoshenko's key image as a crusader for justice against the corrupt mafia she has repeatedly cast them to be.

Forming either coalition poses significant consequences for Yushchenko and his loyal Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense grouping, analysts said.

The Regions has engaged in delaying tactics for the past two weeks as part of an effort to do everything possible to prevent formation of the so-called Democratic Forces Coalition, Fesenko said.

"Demonstrating their blocking ability, the Party of Regions is showing that not a single political or staffing decision will be passed in parliament without its consensus and its political will," he said.

"What they're saying is, 'You must negotiate with us.'"

Through its conduct so far and repeated threats, the Party of Regions made clear it will be hostile to an Orange coalition, which would have a razor-thin majority in parliament.

Aside from waiting until the last minute to accept its deputy mandates and participating in the working group, Regions' leaders suggested they would resort to more extreme measures as formation of an Orange coalition draws closer, including blocking the parliamentary tribune or surrendering their mandates in an effort to disband parliament.

"It's psychological pressure on the president and unstable elements of Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense and the Tymoshenko Bloc," Fesenko said.

However, uniting Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense with the Regions will decimate any miniscule chances Yushchenko currently has of getting re-elected as president, said Viktor Chumak, director of political analysis programs at the Kyiv-based International Center for Prospective Research.

"The president can't deny Tymoshenko the premiership," he said.

"It enhances her position even further, and they will accuse him of destructiveness in forming the Democratic Forces Coalition."

It will also decimate the Our Ukraine grouping, a significant portion of which will oppose a coalition with the Regions, Chumak said.

Hence, Yushchenko's possible exit out of a no-win situation is Fesenko's "no coalition" scenario, in which no coalition is formed by the 60-day deadline after parliamentary elections.

The Ukrainian Constitution requires that the president dismiss parliament in such an event, but it also contains a clause forbidding pre-term elections within a year of the prior pre-term elections, Fesenko said.

"That's a collision within the Constitution's context, and the president will face the issue of whether to dismiss parliament or not," he said.

As such, the president could take advantage of such conflicting laws and create a political stalemate, in which the Yanukovich government would remain acting, a politically expedient outcome for all the main players, albeit legally questionable.

“Our legal nihilism is well developed,” Kononchuk said. “If there’s a high interest in something being overlooked or overstepped, it can be done.”

Even if a Democratic Forces Coalition emerges de jure, political analysts are almost unanimous in the view that Tymoshenko is unlikely to get the necessary votes to become prime minister.

Only three votes are needed to subvert her premiership. And Our Ukraine-People’s Self-Defense has demonstrated a significant minority within its ranks do not want to work with Tymoshenko, herself a presidential contender, largely because they’ve burned the bridges or aren’t needed by her, said political insider Ivan Lozowy.

The recent refusals by three Our Ukraine-People’s Self-Defense politicians to sign the coalition agreement were clearly coordinated by Baloha, according to Lozowy. This reveals the president’s lack of interest in working with Tymoshenko, he added.

“Even though Yushchenko has stated what he wants, he’s not willing to go after it and do whatever it takes, which is the ultimate condemnation of the power he has as president and his persistent failure,” he said.

In an Orange coalition, the Tymoshenko Bloc won’t settle for any prime minister candidate other than its eponymous leader, Kononchuk said, in which case her rejection provides for another scenario in which Yanukovich would remain in place as acting prime minister. Nevertheless, Tymoshenko stands to gain even if the Democratic Forces Coalition fails to support her prime minister candidacy.

“She will take advantage of the situation to cast her opponents as betrayers who don’t uphold agreements, and further her consistent image of defending the people’s interests,” Kononchuk said.

Meanwhile, the Regions will benefit because it would continue controlling the executive branch and Ukraine’s vast resources, she added.

Political observers agree that a “no coalition stalemate” is an effective short-term solution, but it can’t last very long.

The president will have to lobby, negotiate, trade and jockey for every legislative initiative he would need passed, rather than relying on a stable coalition, Kononchuk said.

Package votes are the likely outcome, she said, as different laws from different spheres will be packaged to satisfy different groups.

The political stalemate could satisfy interests for only several months, Lozowy said.

“I don’t see how a non-functioning parliament and acting prime minister can continue for a long period of time, more than two or three months,” he said. “Parliament has to gather in session every 30 days, and nobody will get many votes through.”

A “no coalition” outcome would be the peak of unaccountability in Ukrainian governance, Kononchuk said.

Furthermore, Western governments and corporations intent on political stability will only be further disappointed, she said.

In the long term, it’s the Ukrainian nation and its people that suffer from the current political deadlock, lack of unaccountability and disrespect for the rule of law, Kononchuk said.

"Politicians created a system in which a small circle of politicians divide power among each other and a system of political unaccountability thrives," she said.

"They are unaccountable to the people and the image of Ukraine as a country because they are blinded by the latest political struggle.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.kyivpost.com/nation/27813/>

10. Take lead, Yushchenko
By Editorial
Kyiv Post, 14 November 2007

Three weeks after winning his country's parliamentary elections, Poland's Donald Tusk put together a coalition after he was nominated as the nation's next prime minister by his defeated rival, Lech Kaczynski.

Meanwhile, Denmark's ruling coalition was re-elected in its Nov. 14 election, and the slim, one-seat advantage that it won did not appear to threaten the coalition's majority.

As for Ukraine, six weeks after the election, and two weeks after its results were officially published, no coalition is in sight. In fact, no coalition may actually be the option that prevails.

Most observers doubt that the Democratic Forces Coalition can hold together despite its two-seat majority, and the potential coalition's own members are the source of their problems.

Numerous elected deputies threatened to abandon a coalition agreement reached by the Yulia Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense blocs, which was initially drafted as far back as February.

When it comes to the "political porno" of Ukrainian politics (as political analyst Vadym Karasyov recently described it), the nation's leaders have demonstrated they are far removed from Western pragmatism and European sensibility.

In the latest bickering among the pro-Western Orange forces, most blame belongs with the elected deputies of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc.

Despite his alleged commitment to the Democratic Forces Coalition, President Viktor Yushchenko either wants to keep his options open, or he is utterly indecisive.

Of course, it wouldn't be classic Ukrainian political porn without the Party of Regions playing the lead role. Despite their claims of wanting to unite the country and put politics aside, its elected deputies have stalled the first session of parliament for at least two weeks.

Acting, and not just talking, would be the deepest impression Ukraine's leaders could make on their European colleagues, demonstrating they are capable of governing with the same professionalism and accountability.

The president needs to firmly decide whether he truly wants a coalition with Tymoshenko, and move decisively in that direction, keeping tight discipline over his party operatives. Stop the political porn once and for all, because most Ukrainians have already tuned out.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.kyivpost.com/opinion/editorial/27803/>

11. Lytvyn Asserts That NU-NS and PRU Are Negotiating Ukrayinska Pravda, 14 November 2007

Lytvyn Bloc leader accuses the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc (NU-NS) and the Party of Regions (PRU) of conducting backroom negotiations on the coalition formation.

"I am certain that the NU-NS and PRU are conducting negotiations and they are rather backroom than official," he said in an interview with *Novyye Izvestiya* newspaper.

"There is no room for our bloc in such a coalition. In addition, if such a coalition is formed, it will impose its ideology on others."

In Mr. Lytvyn's view, President Yushchenko is afraid of the coalition with both BYuT and PRU.

"Mr. Yushchenko will feel ill at ease both with Mr. Yanukovich and Mrs. Tymoshenko. However, he will choose the lesser of two evils."

"It seems that the President has not made a final decision. That is why the coalition formation will be dragged out," added Mr. Lytvyn.

In regards to his bloc, the leader sees no possibility of joining the democratic coalition because he does not agree with some provisions of the coalition agreement.

"The NU-NS and BYuT are ready to quarrel with neighbors and actually wage war against them. They will try to 'present a bill' to whatever they like which in my view is politically incorrect," remarked Mr. Lytvyn.

"Listen to recent statements of the democratic leaders! They are full all 'historical resentment'. With such way of thinking they will build nothing new for present and subsequent generations."

Permanent Link: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/11/14/9434.htm>

12. Ukraine , Kyrgyzstan sign bilateral WTO protocol Xinhua, 15 November 2007

Ukraine signed a bilateral protocol with Kyrgyzstan on mutual access to the markets of goods and services, clearing its way to become a WTO member by the end of 2007, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said here Wednesday.

"Thus, last protocol, which was extremely important for completing the process of Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization, has been signed," Yatsenyuk said, "Currently, there are no hindrances for Ukraine to join the WTO by the end of 2007."

He said that next step should be the endorsement of a report of the working group on the issue of Ukraine's accession to the WTO.

"We have already prepared the report. All of the pages of the report have, in fact, been agreed. And I hope the working group's report will be endorsed in the shortest possible time," Yatsenyuk added.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-11/15/content_7076859.htm

13. Last World Trade Organization deal signed Ukrainian Journal, 14 November 2007

Ukraine cleared the last remaining hurdle towards joining the World Trade Organization this year by reaching a trade agreement with Kyrgyzstan, Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said Wednesday.

The two countries had been in a stalemate for years over a disputed \$27.3 million debt that Kyrgyzstan claimed Ukraine owed since 1992. The breakthrough came following two-day talks led by First Deputy Prime Minister Mykola Azarov in Bishkek.

"The last agreement, extremely important for completing the accession to the WTO, has been signed," Yatseniuk said. "Mykola Yanovych [Azarov] and I haven't slept for two nights and lost several kilograms of weight."

Ukraine had been refusing to accept the debt as the state debt amid fears the move would trigger an avalanche of similar claims by other countries, such as Belarus and Russia.

Belarus, for instance, claims Ukrainian companies owed about \$130 million to their Belarusian counterparts when the former Soviet Union collapsed.

"Ukraine has never accepted, does not accept and will never accept the debts formed in 1992-1993 as the state debt," Yatseniuk said.

But the breakthrough at the talks with Bishkek came after Ukraine had used a trick to get around the problem by deciding to send \$27.3 million to Kyrgyzstan as "humanitarian aid."

The Cabinet of Minister earlier on Wednesday approved a set of measures, including the payment of 138 million hryvnias, or \$27.3 million, in "humanitarian aid" to Kyrgyzstan. The money was earmarked as relief funding following the earthquake in that country.

Sending the relief aid to Kyrgyzstan has been suggested by President Viktor Yushchenko, who issued a special decree Tuesday asking the government to approve the payment. The final approval came as the talks in Bishkek were underway.

The signing of the agreement with Kyrgyzstan lifts the last remaining obstacle on the way of Ukraine's accession to the WTO, according to Yatseniuk.

The government will now have to send a report to a special WTO working group in Geneva that monitors Ukraine's progress on the way of the accession. The report will be sent "in the nearest future," Yatseniuk said, suggesting the country may become a member of the WTO before the end of the year.

Joining the WTO is one of Yushchenko's most important economic policy and trade initiatives, and is expected to boost Ukraine's exports to the rest of the world.

Ukraine's accession to the WTO will also open way for a free trade agreement with the European Union, further strengthening trade ties between the two.

The growing exports will boost Ukraine's economy and accelerate the pace of its economic growth by two percentage points annually, the government said.

Ukraine's economy expanded 7.3% on the year in January through October, according to the State Statistics Committee, suggesting the economy was on track to exceed the government's 2007 growth forecast of 6.5%. The government forecast growth will reach 7.2% on the year in 2008.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said most of Ukraine's economy has been generally prepared for the accession, but some sectors, such as farming, may face greater competition.

"Experts believe Ukraine has good chances of successfully adapting to world markets of grain, oilseed," Yanukovich said. "But as far as the farming sector is concerned, we have to be ready for certain difficulties." (tl/ez)

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.ukrainianjournal.com/index.php?w=article&id=5565>

14. Ukraine clears hurdle to WTO entry by reaching trade agreement with Kyrgyzstan AP/PR-Inside.com, 14 November 2007

Ukraine cleared its last significant hurdle to entering the World Trade Organization on Wednesday by signing a long-sought trade agreement with Kyrgyzstan, according to Ukrainian and Kyrgyz officials. Ukraine has made joining the world's biggest trading club a priority, as it needs foreign investment to boost its economy.

Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said that, by signing the agreement, Ukraine had overcome the last major hurdle to acquiring WTO membership. The final protocol, which was extremely important to finishing the negotiations process, has been signed,» he said in remarks broadcast on Channel 5 television. yrgyz Ambassador to Ukraine Erkin Mamkulov confirmed the deal had been signed.

Ukraine now has to complete a number of formalities to actually join the WTO, which Yatsenyuk said could take place this year. Experts were skeptical, however, and predicted Ukraine would join in early 2008.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.pr-inside.com/ukraine-clears-hurdle-to-wto-entry-r301457.htm>

15. Ukraine confirms deal signed with Kyrgyzstan for WTO accession RIA Novosti, 14 November 2007

Ukraine's foreign minister confirmed on Wednesday that the country has signed a trade pact with Kyrgyzstan, the last bilateral protocol needed for Kiev to join the World Trade Organization.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko announced on Tuesday that the deal on access to goods and services had been signed with the Central Asian country, a former Soviet ally. Kyrgyzstan had previously withheld its signature over its claim that Ukraine owed it \$27 million in Soviet-era debt.

Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said: "I can officially confirm that Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan have signed an agreement on the WTO accession."

Ukraine has been seeking the WTO membership for 14 years.

The country's president, Viktor Yushchenko, who declared accession to the global trade body as a top priority immediately after coming to power in 2004, said on Tuesday that Ukraine might become the WTO member by the end of this year.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://en.rian.ru/world/20071114/88113287.html>

16. Ukraine to allocate 138 million hryvnias to Kirghizia UNIAN, 14 November 2007

The government of Ukraine has adopted a resolution to allocate 138 million hryvnias (nearly 27 million dollars) of humanitarian aid to Kirghizia.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, a participant of the today's government session claimed this to journalists today.

On November 13, President of Ukraine Victor Yushchenko signed a decree on allocating a humanitarian aid to Kirghizia due to the earthquake in this country. The President ordered the Cabinet of Ministers to provide giving the aid to Kirghizia.

As UNIAN reported earlier, the official Bishkek claimed that solving the problem of Ukraine's 27 million dollars debt to Kirghizia, which remained since the times of the former USSR, and which was recognized by Kirghizia as a non-state debt of Ukraine, will contribute to progress in the process of talks within the framework of the Working group on the Ukraine's accedence to WTO.

Constant URL of article:
<http://www.unian.net/eng/news/news-221649.html>

17. Ukraine's 700 mln usd bond due 2017 rated 'BB-' - S&P CNNMoney, 14 November 2007

MUMBAI, Nov. 14, 2007 (Thomson Financial delivered by Newstex) -- Standard & Poor's (NYSE:MHP) Ratings Services assigned its 'BB-' senior unsecured debt rating to Ukraine's 700 mln usd bond maturing in 2017. The proceeds will go toward current budgetary funding, partly to replace lower-than-anticipated privatization receipts.

'The ratings on Ukraine are supported by the country's low general government debt, and by its recent strong record in attracting foreign direct investment,' said S&P's credit analyst Frank Gill. 'Offsetting these strengths are Ukraine's weak political institutions, aggressive private sector leveraging, exposure to commodity prices, and high contingent liabilities.'

The agency added that given Ukraine's high vulnerability to commodity prices, it is concerned by the ongoing deterioration in the country's nonmetals trade deficit.

'Were capital outflows to accelerate following renewed political uncertainty, or a worsening of the global financial environment, Ukraine's external liquidity indicators could deteriorate significantly and the ratings could be lowered,' S&P warned.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/newstex/AFX-0013-20970988.htm>

18. Ukraine Implicated in CIA Renditions By JAN SLIVA AP, 15 November 2007

STRASBOURG, France — An EU investigator said Wednesday he has evidence to suggest that a Ukrainian airstrip was used by CIA-operated planes involved in the U.S. extraordinary rendition program.

Giovanni Fava said he was also looking into possible CIA use of a military facility at a Ukrainian base. Fava, an Italian member of the European Parliament, drafted a report last year identifying more than 1,000 secret CIA flights with stopovers on European territory since 2001. He identified several of them as being used to transfer terror suspects.

Ukraine's Defense Minister Anatoly Gritsenko, in a telephone interview with The Associated Press, dismissed Fava's statements on the use of Ukrainian airspace by CIA planes and the use of a military base, calling them "nonsense." He declined further comment.

CIA Spokesman Mark Mansfield declined to comment directly on the charges regarding Ukraine and extraordinary renditions — moving terrorism suspects from country to country.

"Separate and apart from these allegations, there are several points I would make about renditions," he said. "They have been conducted within the law. They have been carried out responsibly and with purpose."

Mansfield said the practice had disrupted potential attacks and allowed the U.S. and its allies to gain intelligence on terrorists.

In a report earlier this year, Swiss investigator Dick Marty accused the CIA of running secret prisons in Poland and Romania to interrogate key terror suspects. He said prisoners were typically shackled and handcuffed, kept naked and in isolation.

The CIA, while stopping short of a denial, said the report was "distorted." Poland and Romania vehemently denied the charges.

John Bellinger, Legal Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State, said that while there have been CIA flights over Europe or flights with stopovers, they may have simply carried intelligence experts, counterterrorist officials or forensic evidence.

Fava and fellow Italian EU lawmaker Giulietto Chiesa cited what they said was a secret Ukrainian government document they had seen authorizing the landing of a CIA-operated Gulfstream jet plane five times in August 2005.

They said the plane was earlier used in the transfer of Egyptian cleric Osama Moustafa Hassan Nasr, also known as Abu Omar, who was abducted from a street in Milan, Italy, before being flown to U.S. bases in Italy and Germany and finally moved to Egypt.

"The plane was consistently used by the CIA," Fava told a news conference.

Andrei Lysenko, spokesman for Ukraine's Defense Ministry, said that "according to the information provided," no such CIA-operated planes ever entered Ukrainian airspace.

Fava said the European Parliament's civil liberties committee will follow up on his evidence with a report in several months.

A purported Egyptian government fax intercepted by the Swiss foreign intelligence agency, published in a Swiss newspaper in 2006, singled out Ukraine as one of the countries allegedly housing a U.S. detention facility.

The European Parliament's inquiry into CIA operations in Europe started in January, following media reports that U.S. intelligence officers interrogated al-Qaida suspects at secret prisons in Eastern Europe and transported some to locations further afield on secret flights that passed through Europe following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

New York-based Human Rights Watch also identified Romania and Poland as possible hosts of secret U.S.-run detention facilities.

Clandestine detention centers and the secret transfer of terrorist suspects via Europe to countries where they could face torture — a process known in intelligence jargon as "extraordinary rendition" — would breach the continent's human rights treaties.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h9dnGnVjp3nKPjSH41k93c5zXYpgD8STOM080>

19. EU investigator targets Ukraine in fresh CIA allegations
By Lucia Kubosova
EUOBSERVER, 14 November 2007

STRASBOURG - The European Parliament's appointee to investigate the alleged cases of illegal CIA prisons in Europe and extraordinary rendition flights over EU territory has called for a follow-up inquiry, suggesting he has fresh evidence that Ukraine was linked to the operations.

There is "strong and very specific evidence that a military base in Ukraine was made available for the CIA," Italian socialist MEP Claudio Fava told journalists on Wednesday (14 November).

Along with his fellow Italian deputy Giulietto Chiesa, he made reference to a secret Ukrainian government document they had both seen and which was also presented in a Russian TV documentary that the two lawmakers arranged for journalists and MEPs to watch in one of the parliament's buildings in Strasbourg.

The secret document appeared to show Kiev's authorization of the landing on the country's territory of a CIA-operated Gulfstream jet plane five times in August 2005.

The Italian deputies suggested that the same plane was used by the CIA in several previously highlighted cases, including the kidnapping of Egyptian cleric Abu Omar in Milan and his transfer to US bases in Italy and Germany for interrogations.

Moreover, the Russian documentary quoted several sources claiming that they had seen or participated in building the prison within a military base in Ukraine, close to Poland, which was used for ten prisoners and ten guards.

In reaction, Ukraine's defense minister Anatoly Gritsenko told the AP agency that the Italian MEPs' statements were "nonsense," and did not comment further.

But the parliamentarians are ready to ask the Council of Europe, the human rights watchdog of 47 member countries including Ukraine, to further investigate the issue. They also called for a special report by the European Parliament's committee of civil liberties.

Earlier this year, the EU legislature adopted Mr Fava's report which stated that there had been over 1,000 secret CIA flights with stopovers on EU territory since 2001, with several of them used to transfer terror suspects.

The Council of Europe report published in June concluded that there was "enough evidence to state that secret detention facilities run by the CIA [existed] in Europe from 2003 to 2005, in particular in Poland and Romania."

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://euobserver.com/9/25145>

20. Democracy Goes Wild in Ukraine
By MARIA DANILOVA
AP, 15 November 2007

Election ballots that magically change votes. Polling stations that burst into flames. Voters hypnotized by a psychic.

Ukraine's young democracy is anything but boring.

This former Soviet republic is still experimenting with democracy, ushered in by the Orange Revolution three years ago. The results are impressive: a stream of competitive elections, vibrant media, and a robust opposition.

Plus comedy.

Having lived under centuries of Russian Czarist rule, 70 years of Soviet communism and a bleak decade of post-Soviet stagnation, today's Ukraine is in many ways Russia's antithesis.

In Russia, critics complain of increasingly heavy-handed rule. Opposition rallies are violently dispersed, election results are all but known in advance and everything is taken very seriously.

Here, the more hotly contested an election is, the better.

The tone was set in 2004 with the Orange Revolution, when the presidential election was rigged in favor of the Kremlin-backed candidate. Protesters jammed Kiev's streets for weeks, overturned the fraudulent vote and brought the pro-Western Viktor Yushchenko to power.

Since then there have been three or four national elections, depending on how you count, with the latest less than two months ago. But unlike in Russia, where an uncertain outcome is perceived by many as a threat to stability and security, Ukrainians seem to thrive on cliffhangers.

In the Sept. 30 parliamentary election, none of the three main parties won enough votes to form a government, and complex coalition talks are taking place. Yet life goes on.

The media, once toothless, are now free to grill Ukraine's leaders on anything from their tax returns to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's criminal record. He served time in jail as a young man for robbery and assault, but both convictions were later overturned.

Nothing, it seems, is off-limits. Yulia Tymoshenko, the glamorous Orange Revolution heroine, is asked at a news conference whether her rich blond hair, braided peasant-style, is real. It is, she insists.

President Yushchenko is asked on live television about failures to deliver on Orange Revolution promises. Tymoshenko is grilled on allegations of corruption in her party. Yushchenko is given to barnyard epithets that add a certain earthiness to the campaign trail.

Multicolored protest tents pop up regularly in central Kiev, sometimes right in front of the presidential administration building — something that would be unthinkable in Moscow, where such protests tend to be broken up before anybody notices them. Ukrainians rally against anything from foreign policy to city construction plans. And nobody seems to mind.

But it's not all serious. Natalia Vitrenko, known for going barefoot and staging fiery protests, appears on a TV talk show to claim that votes for her aggressively pro-Russian, anti-American party were stolen with a high-tech mechanism funded by U.S. billionaire George Soros.

As her host struggles to keep a straight face, Vitrenko produces a ballot cast for Tymoshenko's bloc and says it was actually checked for her party until the mechanism moved the tick to the wrong box.

In Ukraine, lurid claims are a bipartisan thing. As the Sept. 30 election neared, a Tymoshenko supporter said her opponents could resort to dirty tricks such as spraying voting slips with a mysterious liquid that would set them on fire in the ballot box. Yanukovich's team hit back by accusing Tymoshenko of hiring a psychic to brainwash voters.

Someone did try to set a polling station on fire in western Ukraine, where Tymoshenko's party did extremely well. Her supporters were quick to blame Yanukovich's party. His party denied it.

Then came the vote count, and election officials were determined it would be beyond reproach. They took 2 1/2 days to count 99.5 percent of the votes, and another 2 1/2 days to count the remaining 0.5 percent.

The result has finally been validated by a court, but peace and quiet are nowhere in sight. While Tymoshenko is poised to return as prime minister, her opponents have threatened lawsuits, street protests or a boycott of parliament to challenge her victory.

So what, they say — that's democracy.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gh-XRZmZ6C6msKWm6NZ-PvzSjJdgD8STVTPG0>

21. Nigeria: USAID, Ukraine Seek Closer Ties With Govt AllAfrica.com, 15 November 2007

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has commended Zamfara State government for its efforts in the area of health-care delivery to women and children.

The commendation was made by USAID representative, Dr Waheed Matta, when she paid a courtesy visit to the state Deputy Governor, Mukhtari Ahmed Anka, at the Government House in Gusau.

She said the Agency is impressed with the successes recorded by the government so far, adding that what has been achieved and the commitments shown by the state government necessitated the visit.

According to her, USAID will continue to collaborate and support the government in the implementation of their Partner Access Programmes.

"We have been around and I have seen King Fah'd Ibn Abdulaziz Women and Children Hospital and General Hospital. I was really impressed with what is on ground. With what we have seen, I know there is hope, and the reason for the hope is that I see government's commitments to improve the lots of the people."

In his response, Anka said government is doing its best to ensure that women and children are giving much attention in the area of health and the gesture will be extended to 14 local government areas across the state. In a related development, the government of Ukraine is to collaborate with the Zamfara state government in the areas of job creation and skills acquisition for the benefit of the people of the state. This was disclosed by Ambassador of Ukraine to Nigeria, Oleg Skoropad when he paid a courtesy visit to Zamfara State deputy governor, Alhaji Mukhtari Ahmed in Gusau. The ambassador said his country will offer useful inputs on how the state government can develop its industries as well as how to modernise the agricultural sector. "In our university, we have specialists from Nigeria and Ukraine is working with them for the benefit of two countries. Moreover, today we have businessmen conducting their businesses in this state. They were here two years ago and this is the biggest opportunities regarding raw materials, production of fertiliser, production of chemicals that are very important not only for this state of Zamfara but for the whole country," Ambassador Oleg stressed. He said Ukraine university will train expert engineers and specialists from Nigeria who will launch long lasting projects that could give opportunity to the people of Zamfara to be the centre of these industries and it will give the opportunity to produce many industrial and chemical products that will benefit the whole country.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200711150224.html>

22. Ukrainian historian: Subject of Holodomor in Ukraine is too politicized
REGNUM, 15 November 2007

"The subject of Holodomor in Ukraine is too politicized," leading researcher of the Institute of History of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences **Ruslan Pyrig** announced at a news conference in Moscow dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933, reports a **REGNUM** correspondent.

"The attitude towards Holodomor is unambiguous in Ukraine," Pyrig noted. "So, publication of the book 'Holodomor of 1932-33s' that sums up all documents on Holodomor and witnesses' evidence will withdraw many issues."

Elaborating on the subject of the 1932-33 events in Ukraine, Ruslan Pyrig announced: "There is an opinion in Russia that if Ukraine manages to seek recognition of Holodomor as genocide, it can present moral and material claims. But there are no grounds for that."

Permanent news address: www.regnum.ru/english/915360.html

23. European parliament calls to support European choice of Ukraine
Trend News/ForUm, 15 November 2007

(ForUm) - People's deputies of the European parliament consider Ukraine a key partner and calls to support its European choice. This was the main topic during the discussion of the report of Zbignev Zaleski (group of the people's parties, Poland) at the session of the European parliament in Strasburg on November 14.

"Ukraine has become a promising partner for the EU. I am convinced in strengthening of democratic institutions in this country," Laima Andrikiene stated (group of the people's parties, Lithuania).

"Ukraine must take a priority place in the policy of the EU. It is an ideal bridge between the EU, Russia, and the Central Asia due to the outlet to the Black Sea," Boguslav Sonik added (group of the people's parties, Poland).

At the same time the People's deputies note that Ukraine is in complicated situation when one of its neighbors is the European Union, and another – Russia.

"The EU must help Ukraine to return to the Europe, and not to Russia," Bella Glattfeld (group of the people's parties, Hungary).

"We must do all necessary to help Ukraine politically and diplomatically on her way to the WTO," Boguslav Rogalsky stated (group of the right parties, Poland).

The People's deputies have also noted that in spite of significant progress in democracy and economic reforms development, Ukraine must do a lot.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://news.trend.az/index.shtml?show=news&newsid=1076617&lang=EN>

24. Ukraine to start free trade talks with Israel
UNIAN, 15 November 2007

Ukraine plans to start free trade talks with Israel in the first quarter of 2008, President Victor Yushchenko said during his meeting with Israel's business leaders on Thursday, according to the President's press-office.

He expressed hopes Ukraine would join the World Trade Organization by the end of 2007 and added that he had discussed the free trade issue with Israel's political leaders yesterday.

Yushchenko described Ukraine's Israel policy as "absolutely open" and said his country was developing "strategic and cultural" relations with Israel.

Constant URL of article:
<http://www.unian.net/eng/news/news-221842.html>

25. Ukraine signed WTO protocol with Kirghizia UNIAN, 15 November 2007

Ukraine has signed a protocol on access to markets of goods and services with Kirghizia. Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk claimed this to journalists today.

"We have really finished the process of talks with Kirghizia, and signed the bilateral protocol on the access to markets of goods and services", the Minister said.

According to him, the next step on the way of Ukraine's accedence to the World Trade Organization will be the adoption of the report of the working group, which is scheduled for 15 November. "The report is ready, all pages of the text have almost been agreed", A.Yatseniuk said, adding that the working group was waiting just for the last protocol.

"That is, by the end of year, the report of the working group and formalization of issues concerning Ukraine's joining WTO will be completed", A.Yatseniuk.

"We have no obstacles, at least, as of today, for Ukraine to become a WTO member till the end of the current year", the Minister emphasized.

As it is known, Ukraine has been trying to enter WTO since 1993.

Constant URL of article:
<http://www.unian.net/eng/news/news-221730.html>

26. European Commission considers Ukraine is not ready to join the EU ForUm, 15 November 2007

European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Joe Borg noted that for today neither Ukraine nor the EU was ready for Ukraine's accession to the EU.

He said that on Wednesday in Strasburg at the EU session, speaking about economic and trade relations with Ukraine.

"None of the sides is ready for accession...That's why new enhanced agreement does not foresee conditions of future relations," Joe Borg said.

He has also noted that the European Commission and countries-members are convinced in necessity of partnership strengthening with Ukraine and consider it is possible to start negotiations on creation of free trade zone after Ukraine's accession to the WTO.

As a reminder, since March 2007 Ukraine and the EU are negotiating on new enhanced agreement that must change the current one on partnership and cooperation that expires in 2008.

The key position of new agreement must be creation of free trade zone.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2007/11/15/104718.html>

**27. Vienna Insurance Group in Ukraine: Expansion of Market Position in Ukraine by Acquisition of Ukrainska Strakhova Grupa
Pressemitteilung, 15 November 2007**

Vienna Insurance Group clearly expands its involvement in the Ukrainian insurance market, thus continuing its expansion course in Central and Eastern Europe.

On November 14, 2007, TBIH Financial Services Group N.V. (TBIH), in which Wiener Städtische Versicherung AG Vienna Insurance Group has a majority shareholding, signed a contract for the acquisition of 62 percent of the stated share capital of Ukrainska Strakhova Grupa (Ukrainian Insurance Group - UIG). After the relevant approvals have been granted by the authorities, the shares will be taken over from companies affiliated with the Ukrainian UkrGasBank. The parties have agreed to keep the purchase price confidential. It is planned, that these companies are going to sell the remaining shares within the next five years.

"Ukraine has shown a particularly dynamic economic development for quite some time now. This transaction allows us to further expand our position in the diversified Ukrainian market", says CEO Günter Geyer. "The Ukrainian Insurance Group forms a logical supplement to the existing companies. It has a strong corporate customer business and will focus especially on the retail business in the future."

UIG, which has its headquarters in the capital in Kiev, has been operating in the Ukrainian insurance market since 2002. In the first three quarters of 2007, UIG generated a premium volume of approx. EUR23 million.

Of the approx. 460 employees, about 360 work in sales. With 50 branches and a further 20 regional points of sale, UIG is represented all throughout the country. In motor insurance, UIG ranks among the top 10 in the Ukrainian insurance market. In addition to motor third party liability insurance it also focuses on sales in the strongly growing motor comprehensive insurance segment.

Vienna Insurance Group in Ukraine The Vienna Insurance Group has already been operating in the Ukrainian insurance market since 2004. Within the scope of its multi-brand policy, the Vienna Insurance Group up to now was represented by a total of three companies - the two non-life insurance companies Kniazha and Globus as well as the life insurance company Jupiter - in the Ukraine. Together, these companies generated a premium volume of almost EUR 10 million for the Vienna Insurance Group in Ukraine in the first half of the year. In motor third party liability insurance, the companies of the Vienna Insurance Group took 2nd position in the market for this line, with a market share of more than 9 percent.

You will also find this press release on <http://www.wienerstaedtsche.at> under Ad-hoc News

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.presseportal.de/pm/9140/1084704/wiener_staedtsche_allgemeine_versichererungs_ag

**28. Ukraine boosts exports
RosBusinessConsulting, 15 November 2007**

RBC, 15.11.2007, Kiev 10:58:45. Ukraine has increased its exports 27.6 percent to \$35.653bn in the first nine months of 2007 compared to the same period a year earlier. Meanwhile, imports climbed 31.5 percent to \$42.346bn.

The republic's negative balance for foreign trade went up from \$4.273bn in January-September 2006 to nearly \$6.693bn in the same period in 2007. Ukraine currently trades with 200 countries. Exports to the CIS amounted to 37.8 percent of the country's total exports, and exports to Europe stood at 30.3 percent. Imports from the CIS accounted for 43.5 percent of total imports to Ukraine.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.rbcnews.com/free/20071115105845.shtml>

29. Gazprom sends mixed price signals
By Stephen Bandera
Kyiv Post, 15 November 2007

Ukraine will pay at least 25 percent more for natural gas supplies from Russia and Central Asia next year and can expect to pay average European prices by 2011, according to statements made last week by the Kremlin-controlled gas monopoly Gazprom.

No agreements have been signed and the final price will depend on who forms the new government in Kyiv, according to analysts. But the price hikes are expected to further fuel inflationary pressures for Kyiv, which is still adjusting to sharp price rises imposed on natural gas in 2006 and this year.

Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Medvedev told the Kremlin-controlled Russia Today English-language news television network last week that a "preliminary" price of \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters had been agreed to in talks with Ukraine's Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko.

"We cannot sell [natural gas] to our neighbors at lower prices than we do to others," said Medvedev, who also serves as Gazprom's board chairman.

"Most important is that the price suits Ukraine," he insisted.

Medvedev said a final gas deal would not be last-minute and would be signed "well before" Dec. 31. Striking a deal before the New Year is intended to prevent a repeat of the 2006 price standoff, which triggered supply shortages to Europe.

Earlier, Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's government indicated that prices in the \$150-160 range would be acceptable for next year.

The \$160 price was named days after Swiss-registered RosUkrEnergo, a middleman company designated by Gazprom to supply Ukraine with gas, paid back more than \$1.3 billion in debt. Gazprom is itself a 50 percent shareholder in RosUkrEnergo, along with Ukrainian partners Dmytro Firtash and Ivan Fursin.

But Gazprom spokesman Sergei Kuprianov muddied the informational waters later, announcing that the \$160 price tag mentioned by Medvedev is far from being fact.

"There are no agreements on gas prices for Ukraine for next year," he told the Russia AGI Agency of gas information.

Volodymyr Saprykin, director of energy programs at the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center, said no document specifying a price was signed before bilateral talks were scheduled to resume Nov. 15. Sources said the price Kyiv pays for gas could very well depend on who becomes Kyiv's next prime minister.

The leading candidate, Yulia Tymoshenko, pledged to remove RosUkrEnergo, which she describes as a shadowy intermediary, from the supply deal, establishing direct agreements between Gazprom, Central Asian suppliers and state-owned energy giant Naftohaz Ukrainy.

The leadership of Ukraine's outgoing prime minister, Yanukovich, has generally supported the current supply arrangement using RosUkrEnergo, whose role in the multi-billion-dollar gas-supply business to Ukraine has also been questioned by the US.

Tymoshenko's return to the prime minister post, a job she held briefly in 2005, is expected to strain relations with Moscow.

"The Kremlin will wait until [Ukraine's] parliament creates a coalition and the name of the prime minister is known," before prices for 2008 are finalized Saprykin said.

A new government is expected in Ukraine after the new parliament convenes before Nov. 26.

Saprykin said the 2008 price would be between \$150 and \$185, most likely in the higher end of that range.

One chip in Ukraine's hands is to balance out the price hike for gas supplied by raising transit fees on Russian gas pumped to Europe. Ukraine, whose pipelines serve as the main artery for Russian gas exports to Europe, currently charges a fraction of market prices for transit and storage of gas in underground facilities.

But transit and gas storage tariffs are likely to remain unchanged, due to their highly politicized nature, Saprykin said.

"If Ukraine raises tariffs, then Russia will do so symmetrically, resulting in higher prices for Ukraine."

Ukraine currently pays middleman company RosUkrEnergo \$130 for every 1,000 cubic meters of the blue-burning fuel from Central Asia at its borders.

Gazprom officials said that the price Kyiv pays next year would depend on the country's readiness to accept higher, European prices within several years. The Russian energy giant wants Ukraine to accept higher prices in stages, eventually paying so-called European prices by 2011.

On Nov. 13, Medvedev announced the average European natural gas price forecast for 2008 will be \$300 per 1,000 cubic meters.

Saprykin said the average European rate of \$300 is for industrial customers in Western Europe, as household prices are determined locally.

"You can't say Ukraine will pay the full average European prices because distances are significantly smaller, resulting in lower transport costs," he said, adding that gas prices are increasing in line with oil prices. Globally, oil prices have recorded more than 60 percent year-to-date growth in 2007.

Saprykin said the price Ukraine pays for gas imports would also largely depend on what price is set for exports by gas-rich Turkmenistan, the source of most of the blue fuel that Ukraine consumes.

"Russia's Gazprom is paying Turkmenistan \$100 for every 1,000 cubic meters of gas," Saprykin said.

Turkmenistan has been seeking to increase the price for gas supplied to Ukraine, while also seeking "greater independence to sell gas to India, China, even Europe," according to Saprykin.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.kyivpost.com/nation/27812/>

30. Despite sour bilateral ties, Kyiv's trade with Moscow on the rise
By Maria Petrova
Kyiv Post, 15 November 2007

Geopolitics aside, trade relations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine are improving.

The value of bilateral trade between the neighboring countries is likely to reach \$30 billion this year, Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov said last month.

Last year, trade turnover between Ukraine and Russia stood at \$22.4 billion; the figure stood at \$19 billion for the first eight months of this year, suggesting Lavrov's prediction may not be spot on.

Sixteen years since independence, Ukraine's economy is still tightly connected with Russia's. While EU countries have in recent years become Ukraine's largest trading partner as a group, Russia continues to maintain the largest share of trade with Ukraine.

By the end of August 2007, the largest share of Ukraine's exports – 25.5 percent – were destined for Russia. The boost of exports to Russia came from growing sales of railway equipment, electric machinery, ferrous metals, chemical products, paper and cardboard.

Russia also remains the country of origin for most of Ukraine's imports, accounting for 28.7 percent at the end of August. Oil, gas and energy supplies and their derivatives traditionally constitute 50 percent of all imports into Ukraine from Russia.

Russian companies are also increasingly active in starting up businesses in Ukraine. Thus far in 2007, Russian companies have registered 202 new enterprises in Ukraine, according to the State Statistics Committee. Over the same period, German companies registered 40 new companies, while US companies established 79 business operations in Ukraine. In total, there are 12,838 Russian-owned companies operating in Ukraine, while there are 3,465 German-owned companies and 3,101 American-owned businesses.

"The matters of protectionism in trade relations between Russia and Ukraine have taken a back seat," said Oleksiy Blinov, an economic expert with the Kyiv-based International Center for Policy Studies.

"Now, as we can see, there are not so many anti-dumping investigations and appeals from Russia to impose duties. That means Russia understands: The market laws are more or less functional in Ukraine. Ukraine is not involved in dirty cases, like the export of counterfeit goods or unconcealed dumping, because everybody wants to earn money normally. And that is why the market model works," Blinov explained.

In terms of industrial cooperation between the two strategic partners, machine-building has been the dominating sector for years.

"Russian modernization is primarily oriented on local enterprises or on imports from CIS countries. And here Ukraine has very few competitors," Blinov said.

"Thanks to the tremendous growth that Russia is experiencing, our economy will grow even faster," he added.

"[Much] will depend on the future state of the Russian economy. All indications suggest it's going to be positive."

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.kyivpost.com/business/general/27806/>

31. Ukrainians warming up to insurance despite Soviet-era stereotypes of risk management
By Volodymyr Mashchenko
Kyiv Post, 15 November 2007

Following the entrance of large international investors, Ukraine's risk insurance market has experienced a significant upturn. It is being currently boosted by booming car sales and mortgages for apartments and houses. The lion's share of the risk insurance market lies with various types of vehicle insurance plans while other types of risk insurance lag behind.

Industry insiders attribute the ongoing successful development of Ukraine's non-life insurance market first and foremost to booming car sales, resulting in larger-scale vehicle insurance operations, many of which are obligatory. Additional growth is being provided by Ukraine's rapidly growing credit banking sector, because some credit operations in which property is used as collateral require compulsory insurance.

"The most important factor determining the growth of Ukraine's non-life insurance market is the booming development of car and mortgage crediting, due to cooperation between insurance companies and banks in these areas, regarding the purchase of property like condominiums," said Yaroslav Pokotylo, first deputy head of the board of VAB Insurance, a Kyiv-based insurance company that forms part of the VAB financial group. VAB Insurance has been present on the Ukrainian market for five years.

Pokotylo added that the second major reason for the sector's rapid growth lies in the development of compulsory liability insurance for car owners – a measure that is expected to be fully enforced in the near future.

"Insurance of pledged property is being demanded by Ukrainian banks. The growth rate of the volume of car sales in Ukraine is much bigger than in Europe. That is why "CASCO" [the acronym for automotive insurance] is and will be one of the most important and popular insurance products," said Gennady Mysnik, deputy head of the board of Ukraine Insurance Group.

"Thus, the Ukrainian non-life insurance market is going to grow more," added Mysnik.

Kyiv-based Ukraine Insurance Group has operated on the Ukrainian non-life insurance market since 2000. The company has license for 23 types of obligatory and voluntary insurance services. The company operates a network of 90 branches throughout Ukraine.

Industry insiders said that the current growth of Ukrainian risk insurance market is due to acquisition deals which resulted in the entrance of foreign investor capital onto the market.

"During the last few years, strong Ukrainian insurance companies were acquired by large foreign investors such as Generali Vienna Group (France), Allianz SE (Germany), AXA Group (France), UNIQA Group (Austria), Versicherung AG (Austria). This is why the year 2008 will be characterized by competitive activity among the biggest insurance companies," said Mysnik. "Therefore small companies will either disappear or will be absorbed".

Citing the League of Insurance Organizations of Ukraine (LIOU), Mysnik said that during the first nine months of 2007, Ukrainian non-life insurance companies accumulated Hr 11.8 billion (\$2.33 billion). Companies operating on the Ukrainian insurance market collected a gross volume of Hr 13.38 billion in insurance premiums in 2006. According to Mysnik, the non-life insurance market decreased in 2005 compared to 2004. But in 2005 and 2006 it began to grow again.

According to Pokotylo of VAB Insurance, the Ukrainian insurance market is potentially very large and consequently attractive to foreign investors. At the same time, said Pokotylo, the actual coverage of potentially available insurance segments remains very low in Ukraine. According to Pokotylo, the share of insurance payments in GDP is no more than 3-4 percent, while in developed countries this share is around 7-10 percent.

"Demand for risk insurance is pointed at the vehicle insurance segment, both KASKO and obligatory third-party car liability," said Pokotylo. In terms of individual consumers, he said that demand is stably high for car insurance and low for property insurance. Pokotylo added that for legal entities seeking insurance services, the highest demand is for vehicle insurance, while property is being insured mostly as collateral when a company needs a banking loan.

According to industry insiders, the volumes of other kinds of risk insurance, including medical insurance, lags behind vehicle insurance, especially amongst private individuals.

Risk insurance in the country still has vast potential for expansion, although it is partially constrained by Ukrainians' relatively low incomes and lack of trust toward insurance companies.

Distrust towards insurance companies is partially explained by negative occurrences in the past connected with the collapse of the Soviet-era insurance system and bankruptcies of the first Ukrainian insurers following independence.

"Ukrainians have a stereotype that insurance companies often default on their liability of indemnity. This can be changed only with time," said Mysnik of Ukraine Insurance Group adding that the Ukrainian insurance market is still in its infancy albeit becoming more sophisticated and well-organized.

"There are about 80 percent of Ukrainians who have never used insurance services. But the number of insured people grows every year," said Mysnik.

Speaking about the short-term, industry insiders predict that the growth rate the risk insurance industry will remain high, although mostly due to car insurance which is the current trend. Other types of risk insurance will catch up later, when the market is more saturated.

"We see the car insurance market continue to grow in the near future. And only after this segment achieves widespread coverage will insurers actively start promoting other types of property and personal insurance plans, including health," said VAB's Pokotylo.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.kyivpost.com/business/industglance/27805/>

32. Akhmetov snaps up mills in EU **By Nazar Kudrevsky** **Kyiv Post, 15 November 2007**

A major Ukrainian steel holding owned by Ukraine's richest man, Rinat Akhmetov, is in the process of acquiring steel production assets in the European market.

The move marks the holding's strategy to expand into foreign markets and signifies Ukrainian business groups' increased interest in assets abroad.

Metinvest Holding announced Nov. 12 that one of its subsidiaries has signed an agreement to purchase 100 percent of two steels factories, in Italy and the UK, for an undisclosed amount.

Metinvest, itself a top 10 steel exporting company, is buying Tramel SpA (Italy) and Spartan UK (UK) from the Malacalza family. Sources said Metinvest agreed to pay more than \$500 million for both steel factories. Approval from EU regulatory bodies is expected within the next two months.

Akhmetov's holding plans to combine these two steel rolling factories with its existing Italian steel-rolling company, Ferriera Valsider SpA, resulting in a newly created company with a 1 million-ton plate-rolling capacity in the EU.

Metinvest General Director Igor Syry said in a company statement that the two companies “perfectly fit our long-term strategy of producing more value-added products and improving the company’s industrial balance.”

Trametal and Spartan “will make excellent additions to our company,” he added.

Trametal and Spartan UK are plate-rolling facilities located in San Giorgio de Nogaro, Italy, and Newcastle, UK, respectively. Last year, both companies boasted sales over \$544 million and together produced more than 536,000 metric tons of plate. Ferriera Valsider had sales of more than \$387 million and produced 515,000 metric tons of rolled-steel products.

Metinvest, a vertically integrated holding that controls assets in coal and iron mining, coke production, iron-ore enrichment and steel production, claims to be Ukraine’s largest privately owned corporation. The holding owns 19 industrial entities that produce around 6 million tons of coking coal, more than 7 million tons of coke, more than 40 million tons of iron ore products and more than 11 million tons of crude steel annually.

Eugene Cherviachenko, an analyst at Kyiv investment bank Concorde Capital, said the acquisition marks the holding’s goal to expand its presence in Europe and establish itself as a supplier of higher-grade steel products.

The acquisition “is but one move and we will see more mergers and acquisitions” by Metinvest and other leading steel groups in Ukraine, itself one of the top 10 steel exporting countries.

Two other business groups in Ukraine have also expanded outside Ukraine in recent years, acquiring assets in Europe and other regions.

Billionaires Serhiy Taruta and Vitaliy Haiduk, who control Industrial Union of Donbass Corporation, have bought steel mills in Poland and Hungary. The group also has a stake in a US mill and is currently trying to close its acquisition of Poland’s Gdansk shipyard, a potentially key consumer of steel.

Ukraine’s so-called Privat business group, controlled by billionaires Ihor Kolomoyskiy and Genadiy Bogolyubov, reportedly controls large ore-mining and ferroalloy businesses in Georgia, Ghana, Poland, Russia, Romania and the US, in addition to Ukraine.

Bogolyubov is currently bidding high for a major Australian mining company, Consolidated Minerals, which last year produced about 10 percent of the world’s manganese.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.kyivpost.com/business/general/27808/>

33. Ukraine's Prominvestbank assigned 'E+' bank financial strength rating - Moody's ABCmoney, 14 November 2007

MUMBAI (Thomson Financial) - Moody's Investors Service said it has assigned an 'E+' bank financial strength rating with a stable outlook to Prominvestbank reflecting its strong position in the corporate segment offering good prospects for cross-selling and its overall market share as one of the top five banks in Ukraine's fragmented market.

Moody's said the ratings also reflect the bank's broad national coverage supported by its leading positions in payment cards and its good profitability.

The ratings agency said it has also assigned 'Ba2' and 'Not Prime' long-term and short-term local currency deposit ratings and 'B2' and 'Not Prime' long-term and short-term foreign currency deposit ratings.

Moody's added, it has assigned 'B2' long-term foreign currency deposit rating with a positive outlook, reflecting the positive outlook on Ukraine's country ceiling for such deposits.

The ratings agency, however, said it remains cautious that Prominvestbank's bank financial strength rating remains constrained by corporate governance issues such as 'key man risk' with no apparent successor and its not entirely transparent ownership structure.

Moody's said it was also cautious on the bank's limited strategic and competitive agility given the growing competition in the market, which has already led to an erosion of the bank's market share and its relatively high credit risk concentration.

tfn.newsdesk@thomson.com

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.abcmoney.co.uk/news/142007164920.htm>

34. A QUESTION OF NATIONAL PRIDE

By John Marone

Eurasian Home Analytical Resource, 15 November 2007

Reports of racism and anti-Semitism in Ukraine climbed to prominence in the nation's media last month.

Whether this had anything to do with the October 14 commemoration of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) is a matter of speculation.

On that day, a few people exhibiting Nazi symbols took part in a parade otherwise composed of Ukrainian nationalists.

It's an historical fact that the UPA fought against the Nazis as well as the Poles and the Soviets with the stated goal of carving out an independent Ukraine.

But because some UPA leaders had served in a unit initially supported by the Germans but directed against the Red Army, the entire Ukrainian nationalist movement has been labeled as fascist - and not just by the Russians.

Some Jewish groups referred to the Oct. 14 commemoration as "a neo-Nazi parade", and cited increasing anti-Semitism in Ukraine, including attacks on Rabbis in the regions.

Organizers of the parade said the people wearing swastikas were provocateurs, planted in the crowd to demonize the nationalists.

After decades of Soviet propaganda, demonizing nationalists isn't hard to do in Ukraine, especially in the country's Russian-speaking south and east.

But even in the rest of Europe, where multiculturalism has become the new creed, nationalism and even patriotism are dirty words.

The French celebrate Bastille Day, the starting point of one of the world's bloodiest revolutions, while Americans love to wave their flags. But these independent movements – we are told – were about ideals, not ethnic groups.

The building of nations around values and principles, rather than a culture or ethnicity, is an export from the West, just like market economics and parliamentary democracy.

In Ukraine, and many other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, most feel that there is nothing wrong with the idea of a country having a 'title nationality'.

Considering the rise of right-wing parties in Western Europe, the idea is not dead there either.

Nevertheless, when some Ukrainians want to honor those who fought against their country's invaders – much of Western Ukraine was never a part of the Russian Empire until Stalin grabbed it – they are put in the same boat with racists, fascists and anti-Semites.

The label is given added credence by the country's history of pogroms and, more recently attacks against people of color on city streets.

Last month, a 31-year-old Bangladeshi was murdered and robbed in Kyiv.

A year earlier, a 45-year-old Nigerian man was attacked and killed by drunken youths.

In between and before, there have been dozens of reports of non-whites being assaulted on the street.

There are also periodic reports of Jewish cemeteries being vandalized and the continual protest against xenophobic literature being handed out on the streets.

Most recently, a Jewish school in the capital was set afire.

The official police response to most of these incidents has been that they were perpetrated by hooligans.

The State Security Service, responsible for intelligence and security, announced last month that it had created a special unit to fight xenophobia and ethnic intolerance.

In August, however, the Interior Ministry announced the creation of a special unit to fight crimes perpetrated by foreigners.

As far as average citizens are concerned, an opinion poll conducted earlier this year showed that significant percentages of the population would not want to live near blacks, and think Jews don't belong in Ukraine.

So what does all of this have to do with Ukrainian nationalism?

Everything and nothing.

Nationalism was unleashed across Eastern and Central Europe, as the Soviet empire crumbled. The same thing happened following the retreat of the Turkish and Austro-Hungarian empires after World War One.

From the ashes of these empires emerged the European states so familiar to us today. But none of this would have happened if the Croats, Poles, Hungarians, Ukrainians, etc. had not felt that they were a separate people.

They didn't necessarily feel that they had new principles to offer the world – the way the Russians offered world communism, or the US promotes the free market.

The real engine behind the plurality we see in the modern map of Europe is a sense of identity that distinguishes one nation of people from another.

This sense of national pride doesn't have to equate to contempt for other nationalities, particularly as most of the new states in Eastern and Central Europe encompass ethnic minorities not inclusive in the 'title nationality'.

Nevertheless, just as Europe tries to collectively promote multiculturalism in the name of tolerance, grass-roots organizations like the skinheads and neo Nazis are springing up to challenge it.

Both Fascist youth groups and multiculturalism are imports to Ukraine, unlike the benign nationalism that fostered Ukraine's independence movement.

Now, as the country continues to stride uncertainly along the road to reinforcing its sovereignty, the nationalist flame is always in danger of turning into a bonfire of ethnic hate.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that the recent attacks against non-Ukrainians were perpetrated by young people, uncertain of their identity or place in the modern, multi-cultural world.

Of more concern are the organizations that have popped up to capitalize on this uncertainty.

The Ukrainian political party Svoboda got nearly one percent of the vote in the last parliamentary elections and already has members of city councils in western Ukraine.

Svoboda representatives make no secret of their hostility towards foreigners in Ukraine, but in this they are no different from right-wing European parties. Main stream Ukrainian youth culture is more accepting of diversity, as evidence by non-white pop stars such as the popular singer Gaitana.

But there are also more radical groups operating in Ukraine such as the Kharkiv-based Patriot organization, whose members have bragged in media interviews about rounding up illegal Vietnamese immigrants for deportation. Such rhetoric, however, speaks to a more important issue – the state of Ukraine's law enforcement and judicial system.

If vigilantes are encroaching with impunity on the state's executive powers, then ethnic tension isn't the primary problem. If, on the other hand, the Ukrainian police or other law-enforcement agencies are abetting or turning a blind eye to racist attacks, then government needs to make personnel changes.

Judging by the reports on the attacks committed so far, the problem seems to be as much about official incompetence as social malaise. There could also be a geopolitical element involved, as Russian-sponsored youth groups show equal contempt for Ukrainian law. At the same time, Russian media are quick to portray nationalist groups such as the UPA as radical fascists.

It wasn't the UPA or other fighters for Ukrainian independence who created the force of nationalism. But in helping create an independent Ukraine, they harnessed the force productively. Now the trick is to continue in the same vein. Patriotism and national pride are only as destructive as the goals they are used to achieve.

John Marone, Kyiv Post Staff Journalist, Ukraine

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://www.eurasianhome.org/xml/t/opinion.xml?lang=en&nic=opinion&pid=916>

35. IMF official: Ukraine can handle energy cost rise to world levels Ukrainian Journal, 15 November 2007

Ukraine can successfully cope with a gradual rise in prices for imported energy resources to the level of world prices, said Neven Mates, a senior economic advisor at the European Department of the International Monetary Fund.

"I don't think that this rise in prices for imported energy resources will be an unresolved problem. There is a chance [Ukraine] can cope with this quite well," he said at a briefing in Kiev.

The rest of the story is available to subscribers only.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.ukrainianjournal.com/index.php?w=article&id=5557>

36. Ukrainian famine memories haunt local professor
By RAMON GONZALEZ, WCR Staff Writer
Canada Western Catholic Reporter, 15 November 2007

Yar Slavutych watched his family starve, even holding his grandfather in his arms as he drew his last shuddering breath

As a 15-year-old, Yar Slavutych witnessed the starvation death of many people in rural Ukraine, including his little sister, grandmother, grandfather and his neighbour Dovhal.

But it is the death of his grandfather that he remembers most vividly because the emaciated old man died in his arms, totally weakened by hunger.

"The last time I brought him some milk and a piece of bread he died in my arms," recalled Slavutych, 90, in a recent interview. "But before he died, he took an oath from me to survive and tell the whole world how the Soviets destroyed Ukraine."

Slavutych recalls burying his grandpa secretly in a forest.

"Since there were no boards for a coffin, I wrapped my grandfather's body in a coarse cloth." With difficulty, the lad managed to place his grandpa's body onto a broken sleigh and dragged his remains through the grass to a hole he had dug in the night.

Famine survivor

Slavutych, a retired professor of Slavic languages at the University of Alberta and a prolific poet and author, is a survivor of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33 which claimed millions of lives at the hands of the Soviet rulers.

Slavutych began writing about the famine when he moved to the West after the Second World War, denying Soviet claims it was caused by drought. He was not allowed to return to Ukraine until it became independent. His 2003 book, *Postscript to Posterity*, contains one of his recollections of the famine.

The famine occurred when Soviet ruler Josef Stalin enforced a policy of land management called collectivization. This resulted in the seizure of all privately owned farmlands and livestock, in a country where 80 per cent of the people were traditional village farmers.

Farmers had to hand over all their grain and produce to the government that was supposed to distribute the food equally across the country. In reality, much of the hugely abundant wheat crop harvested by the Ukrainians that year was dumped on the foreign market to generate cash to aid Stalin's Five Year Plan for the modernization of the Soviet Union.

Collectivized farms

By mid-1932, nearly 75 per cent of the farms in the Ukraine had been forcibly collectivized. On Stalin's orders, mandatory quotas of foodstuffs to be shipped out to the Soviet Union were drastically

increased in August, October and again in January 1933, until there was simply no food remaining to feed the people of Ukraine.

"Every handful of grain was collected. Death and stiff penalties were swiftly applied to violators," Bishop David Motiuk says in a pastoral letter to the clergy, religious and faithful of Edmonton Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy.

"A married couple was shot to death for unspecified pilfering. A father was shot to death for possession of 20 kilograms of wheat gathered by his 10-year-old daughter.

"A woman was sentenced to 10 years for cutting ears of corn from her own garden plot, two weeks after her own husband had died from starvation."

Slavutych knows all about that. "At the height of the Ukrainian Famine, farmers were dying of starvation en masse, senselessly wandering the fields in the hope of finding last year's grain or cob of corn or of digging out a frozen potato," he recalled.

"The harvested crop stolen from these same farmers by the Soviet government lay in great heaps, sweating and rotting under rain-covers."

He saw these stockpiles of grain with his own eyes at the Dolynska railroad station, the half-station Vysun and near the station of Kryvyyj Rih.

"There was so much of this grain, there were not enough freight cars to haul it all north. People were dying and their grain was rotting away in piles."

Crops were plentiful

By the end of 1933, seven to 10 million people had died from starvation.

"They died needlessly as the crop harvests were plentiful," Motiuk says in the pastoral letter. "The result is known today as the Ukrainian Famine or Holodomor in Ukraine."

On Nov. 22-24, the Ukrainian Eparchy will mark the 75th anniversary of the famine with a series of events featuring education, social outreach and prayer. Motiuk is urging the faithful to participate.

"Taking time to educate ourselves about the famine will help us to understand more of our own personal history as a people, as well as to take positive steps to ensure that history never repeats itself," the bishop said.

The Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Canada have proclaimed November 2007 to be a month of mourning and commemoration of the Holodomor.

In a pastoral letter, the bishops ask the faithful to respond to the tragedy with fervent prayer, helpful information and good deeds. Parishes are urged to celebrate a memorial Divine Liturgy for those who died in the famine.

The bishops also calling on the faithful to pray for those who continue to be traumatized by the famine to this day and to "find it in our hearts to forgive those who played any role, whatsoever, in this tragedy."

Slavutych was 14 when he and his father were arrested and put on a train to Siberia for resisting Soviet plans. But the young boy escaped by jumping off the train near the Russian border. It took him a month to make his way back home, only to find his family farm in total ruin.

Worked at state farm

His mother and his sisters made their way to a nearby village where she worked at the miners' dormitories. She survived on some food rations for herself and the children.

"Most of my family was saved in this way, (but) three did not survive," Slavutych recounted. "Grandmother died in January and grandfather lived until May. My youngest sister Halochka passed away at six months because it was impossible to get her any milk."

Slavutych couldn't stay with his mother and five sisters because the authorities wanted him, so he went to work at a state farm nearby.

"From there I could visit Grandfather, bringing him a slice of bread and, occasionally, a little bag of millet, a couple of potatoes and a bit of salt for soup."

His grandpa lived near the family's ravaged farmstead in an earthen hut, sometimes in the roofless ruins of the house itself.

"Visiting him in March, April and May, I often came across corpses on the road," Slavutych recalled. "Dead bodies were removed very infrequently. Their stench permeated the whole area."

Final breath

One time, a tall, ravaged man started to run after the young Slavutych. "He fell just before he reached me, gasping his last breath." Slavutych approached and recognized his farmer neighbour Dovhal. "Of his family, only the eldest son survived for he was serving in the Red Army at the time."

In Postscript to Posterity, Slavutych mentions several cases of cannibalism, including the case of a woman who, crazed with hunger in the famine, slew her daughter, cooked the human flesh, ate it and then shared it with others.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.wcr.ab.ca/news/2007/1119/famine111907.shtml>

37. EU and its eastern neighbours - An agenda for political and economic integration within the C.I.S. By Krzysztof Kolanowski Newropeans Magazine, 15 November 2007

The recent elections in Ukraine, the forthcoming expansion of the Schengen area as well as constant speculations about President Putin's succession in Russia - all these topics make a good opportunity to launch a discussion upon a future policy of the European Union towards its eastern neighbours. At present, the EU leadership has not succeeded to formulate any consistent principles of a Trans-European policy towards Russia and C.I.S.1 countries.

In Part I (Russia) and Part II (CIS) the questions of alternatives models of future relationships with Russia and the CIS countries were identified. **This third part** will attempt to define in a more general context the handling issues in different fields, like energy, World Affairs, Kaliningrad... And finally in the fourth part we will review European policy towards other C.I.S. countries, Belarus, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova, country by country.

Full text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.newropeans-magazine.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7300&Itemid=84

38. CRIMEAN TATARS CLASH WITH POLICE OVER LAND

By Pavel Korduban

Eurasia Daily Monitor, 14 November 2007

Ethnic tension has increased in Ukraine's Crimean peninsula as the authorities move to tackle the problem of Crimean Tatar squatters occupying local plots of land. In early November, Tatars were forcibly evicted from two construction sites that, according to the Crimean authorities and the local Slav radicals, they had illegally grabbed. Crimean Tatar leaders have accused the authorities of bias and threatened to set up an ethnic militia to defend their property.

The current real estate conflicts in Crimea have their roots in Stalin's deportation of the Crimean Tatars to Central Asia in 1944 for alleged collaboration with the Nazis. Tatars began to return to their homeland en masse in the early 1990s, only to find their estates occupied by the state and Slav settlers. The authorities in Kyiv and the Crimean capital of Simferopol decided to settle the problem by allocating land plots to the returnees, most of whom are farmers. As the authorities have been slow and often reluctant to keep their promises, the repatriates began to occupy land plots without permission.

The most lucrative plots are in southern Crimea, whose Mediterranean climate and picturesque mountains have made it a popular destination for holidaymakers from Ukraine and Russia. The local land is valuable, so naturally most of the Tatars want to settle there. They say southern Crimea is their home. Mustafa Dzhemilev, leader of the Crimean Tatars' self-styled national assembly, claims that 70% of the southern Crimean coastline belonged to Tatars before the deportation, while now they own just 1.5% of that area. Tatar interests clash with those of the developers who build resorts in the area. Tatars believe that many of these construction projects are illegal, and that the local authorities are corrupt and work in cahoots with developers.

On November 1, several hundred Tatars clashed with representatives of a construction company in Simferopol. The company said Tatars had seized its construction site and built houses there illegally. Tatars said that the company only "claimed" to own the plot and that they wanted to protect their property from demolition. Police apparently did not interfere, and nobody was seriously injured or detained.

A more serious conflict broke out on November 6, when police destroyed a Crimean Tatar café and several unfinished buildings at Mount Ay-Petri. About 1,000 riot police clashed with some 500 Tatars who tried to prevent the demolition. Police say they obeyed a court order, but Tatars insist that only one of the destroyed sites was illegal. Police arrested 18 repatriates for resistance; four more repatriates were hospitalized, including one with a gunshot wound. A video of the clash, which was shown on TV channels nationwide, prompted accusations of police brutality.

Police said that the Tatars had prepared Molotov cocktails and threatened to set fire to a liquefied gas cylinder. The Tatars denied this and accused the police of brutally beating and shooting unarmed people at Ay-Petri.

The Crimean Majlis ruled to establish Tatar militia units to protect Tatar property across Crimea, but Dzhemilev personally vetoed this move, fearing it would only escalate the conflict. Speaking on Ukrainian TV, however, Dzhemilev made it clear that this was only a gesture of goodwill, one that can be reversed. He said that he did not see why it would be illegal for Tatars to set up their own militia when the local Slav militia units – the Cossacks – have been active in the area for years.

The party of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, Our Ukraine, which has historically supported the Tatars, reacted to the incidents by accusing the Crimean authorities of provoking ethnic conflict. "It is the Crimean authorities' discriminatory attitude toward repatriated Crimean Tatars" and "selective application of law" that creates conflicts, Our Ukraine said in a statement.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry, which is controlled by Our Ukraine's rivals from the Party of Regions, said that the police acted lawfully at Ay-Petri. Acting Interior Minister Mykhaylo Kornienko noted that there are still over 80 land plots in Crimea "which should be vacated because they were illegally grabbed." The prosecutor for Crimea, Viktor Shemchuk, who is loyal to Yushchenko and Our Ukraine,

said that police actions at Ay-Petri were unprofessional, but he conceded that Tatars had occupied the plot illegally. The leader of Crimea's radical Russian Bloc, Oleg Rodivilov, speaking to Segodnya, accused Yushchenko and his party of covering up what he described as illegal land grabs by Tatars.

Tatar protesters, meanwhile, set up a tent city in downtown Simferopol, demanding that the Crimean police should be dismissed and punished for the Ay-Petri incident and that the arrested repatriates should be freed. The Tatars promised an open-ended protest. A mass rally scheduled for November 11 was called off due to a hurricane in the Crimea.

(UNIAN, November 1; Channel 5, November 6, 10; Interfax-Ukraine, November 7, 8; Segodnya, November 10; Zerkalo nedeli, November 11)

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://jamestown.org/edm/article.php?article_id=2372589

39. In Ukraine, Blog Camp Draws 300 Bloggers from Seven Countries Internews, 14 November 2007

Close to 300 bloggers and new media experts from seven CIS and Baltic countries attended "BlogCamp 2007," the first international blogging conference held in the region. During the 2-day conference held in mid-October, participants discussed blogs, online communications, social journalism and Internet marketing, among other topics.

The event, which was co-organized by the local NGO Internews Ukraine and Transitions Online, was dubbed a nonConference because of its informal, self-governing nature. Participants determined the schedule and topics of their presentations and organized registration and technical assistance.

The "BlogCamp2007" format was based on the popular "BarCamps," an international network of user generated conferences, whose philosophy is to share information from the camps with the world.

The topics introduced by the participants included an investigation of the Ukrainian blogosphere, blog technologies, commercialization of blogs, and using blogs in marketing and PR.

"To my mind, the format of "BlogCamp" proved its vitality," commented Sergiy Petrenko, Director General of Yandex Ukraine. "I liked that every half hour the session topics were changed. Also there was no strict agenda."

Roman Ivanov, head of communication services of Yandex Russia, agreed. "BlogCamp provided an opportunity to discuss topics which came to mind unexpectedly," he said.

Samson Sholademi, journalist and well-known blogger from Russia, said, "In my opinion, the informal atmosphere gave all participants much positive energy, emotions and new ideas. I am glad that such an event was conducted."

"BlogCamp 2007" was also supported by the Open Society Institute, Home PC magazine, Hi-Tech Pro magazine, InternetUA, eMobile magazine and PRP Ukraine.

Information that was shared during the sessions in the form of recordings, slides, audio and video materials has been published on-line.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.internews.org/prs/2007/20071114_ukraine.shtml

40. Eurobank wants to double Ukraine network by 2009
Kathimerini/ Bloomberg, 15 November 2007

EFG Eurobank Ergasias, Greece's second-biggest lender, wants to double the number of branches in Ukraine by the end of next year as it expands in Eastern Europe. Eurobank's Ukraine unit, Universal Bank, will have more than 100 branches by the end of 2008 from 53 at present, Eurobank said yesterday. Thirty-five new branches will be created just in the country's capital of Kiev, the statement said. Universal's outstanding loans have tripled since the beginning of this year, Eurobank said. (Bloomberg)

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:|

http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/news/economy_&xml/&aspKath/economy.asp?fdate=15/11/2007