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**1. Pro-Western Coalition Formed in Ukraine
By YANA SEDOVA
AP, 30 November 2007**

Ukraine's two pro-Western parties forged a fragile majority coalition in parliament Thursday, raising hopes for an end to months of political turmoil.

But the coalition agreement that the parties registered at parliament could fall victim to the squabbling and flexible loyalties that characterize Ukrainian politics.

Hours after the parties of President Viktor Yushchenko and Orange Revolution heroine Yulia Tymoshenko reached the coalition agreement, a senior member of Yushchenko's party announced he had refused to sign it — giving the coalition 227 seats in the Verkhovna Rada, just one more than is needed for a majority.

The agreement stipulates that Tymoshenko would return as prime minister, while Yushchenko's party gets to pick the parliament speaker. Lawmakers now have one month to form a Cabinet.

Tymoshenko is one of the most polarizing figures in Ukraine — adored by her supporters, but regarded with suspicion even by other Western-oriented politicians and despised by backers of Viktor Yanukovych, the current, Moscow-oriented prime minister.

She was the most energetic and visible figure of the 2004 Orange Revolution, the massive protests that arose after Yanukovych appeared to beat Yushchenko in a fraud-plagued presidential election.

Yushchenko won a court-ordered rerun of the election and made Tymoshenko his prime minister, only to fire her seven months later.

Yanukovych became prime minister last year after his Party of Regions won the largest share of votes in a parliamentary election. This spring, Yushchenko accused Yanukovych of attempting an illegal power grab and ordered new elections, which were held in September.

Yanukovych's party got the largest number of votes, but not enough to overcome the combined seats won by Yushchenko's and Tymoshenko's parties.

Raisa Bohatryyova, a senior member of Yanukovych's party, said its deputies would not support any of the Orange coalition's proposals.

With the Party of Regions moving into fierce opposition and with the Orange coalition having only a paper thin majority, politicians and observers said it was highly unstable.

"The question of the new government and of Tymoshenko being premier is far from decided," said political analyst Ivan Losovy. "It is the first and good step, but there is not 100 percent guarantee that a government will be formed."

Yushchenko has publicly thrown his support behind Tymoshenko as premier, but he may be reluctant to invest too much power in her because she is a potential rival for the presidency in 2009.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hqla8iAIRLx1swhkk6Ev0x24TocAD8T7IG0G0>

2. PRAISE AND CONDEMNATION OF STALIN: RUSSIA AND UKRAINE GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS

By Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor, 30 November 2007

On November 24-25 the Ukrainian authorities marked the 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 famine. President Viktor Yushchenko, Acting Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, former President Leonid Kuchma, and other political leaders attended the ceremony.

Writing in the Wall Street Journal on November 26, Yushchenko said, "The Holodomor (Terror-Famine) was an act of genocide designed to suppress the Ukrainian nation." Yushchenko described Stalin's policy as aimed at destroying Ukrainian national identity by targeting the peasantry and Soviet Ukrainian institutions, including national communists: "It was a state-organized program of mass starvation that in 1932-33 killed an estimated seven million to 10 million Ukrainians, including up to a third of the nation's children."

Yushchenko's counterpart in Russia has a very different view of Stalin. In June President Vladimir Putin dismissed Stalinist crimes with the words: "Other countries have done even more terrible things."

The differing regimes in Ukraine and Russia – democratic versus nationalist-autocratic – have taken different approaches toward what became known in the Gorbachev era as the "blank pages of history," especially the Stalin era.

A similar rehabilitation of Stalin is also taking place in Belarus where Stalin is, like in Russia, routinely praised on television. There, Stalinist atrocities have been presented as committed by the Nazis, while Stalinist crimes, such as at the massacre at Kuropaty, have been ignored. In contrast, Kuropaty's equivalent in Ukraine, the Bykivnia forest outside Kyiv, the site of hundreds of thousands of Stalinist crimes, is officially commemorated.

Yushchenko has expanded the commemoration of the Ukrainian famine and Stalinist crimes, following a process that can be traced to the early 1980s (president.gov.ua/content/150_1.html).

First, the Ukrainian diaspora commemorated the famine on its 50th anniversary in 1983, followed by the release of the 1984 film "Harvest of Despair"

([video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3897393411603039499](https://www.google.com/videoplay?docid=3897393411603039499)) and Robert Conquest's book, *Harvest of Sorrow*.

Second, the national-democratic opposition uncovered "blank pages," including the famine, during Gorbachev's glasnost campaign. The Communist Party of Ukraine (KPU) was forced to admit the existence of the famine in a 1990 resolution.

Third, post-Soviet Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma issued a decree on the 60th anniversary in 1993, and more commemorative decrees, resolutions, and appeals followed.

In 2002-2004, Kuchma sought international recognition of the famine as "genocide," a policy that Yushchenko has followed. During his three-year presidency, Yushchenko has issued seven decrees on the famine and Stalinism. UNESCO picked up the theme and issued a resolution on November 1 on the famine, calling it a "national tragedy" (unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001538/153838e.pdf).

In Ukraine, many political parties, the presidents, school textbooks, and the media have all negatively portrayed Stalinist crimes alongside Nazi crimes against humanity. But in Putin's Russia, the crimes committed in the 1930s are ignored or marginalized while Stalin is praised for transforming the USSR into a "superpower."

Russia's rehabilitation of Stalin has been accompanied by a similar rehabilitation of the intelligence agencies. Last year, copying the KGB, the FSB introduced national prizes for art, cinema, and literature that created a "positive image" of the intelligence services. But works published in Russia extolling the virtues of the KGB and its bloody predecessors far outnumber books on Stalinist crimes. In Ukraine the Security Service (SBU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have supported the denunciation of Stalinist crimes (mfa.gov.ua/mfa/ua/publication/content/14504.htm). The SBU declassified 5,000 pages of relevant documents for the Declassified Memory exhibition in Kyiv (ssu.kmu.gov.ua/sbu/control/uk/publish/category?cat_id=63245).

In November all branches of the Ukrainian military lower the state flag in honor of the victims of the famine and Communist crimes. During that month, the military also helped repair monuments, organized lectures at military bases by writers and academics, showed films, and discussed books on the famine and Communist repression. Each year the president presents state medals to Ukrainian scholars and activists working to document Stalinist crimes.

In contrast, Alexander Filippov's new school textbook, *A Modern History of Russia: 1945-2006*, describes Stalin as "one of the USSR's most successful leaders" whose repression brought the USSR out of crisis (AFP, November 3). While Ukrainian textbooks denounce both Stalinism and Nazism; Filippov justifies Stalin as a necessary evil and backs his positive treatment by citing opinion polls giving him a positive approval rating among Russians of 47%.

In Ukraine the opposite tendency is taking place. Some 72.4% of Ukrainians blame the 1932-33 famine on the authorities, and 63% of Ukrainians support the recognition of the famine as "genocide" (*Ukrayinska pravda*, November 20). These polls have both cross-party and cross-regional support: 75% of the centrist Volodymyr Lytvyn bloc and 43% of the Party of Regions supported the definition of the famine as "genocide," while Donetsk's annual commemorations of famine and Communist repression are attended by local officials, including the oblast governor and city mayor (Donbass, November 25, 2006). Even the left supports this step. Some 80% of the Socialist Party and 41% of the Communist Party backs the use of "genocide" to describe the famine.

How the "blank pages" of history, such as Stalinist crimes, are treated reflect the nature of the democratic and nationalist-autocratic regimes emerging in Ukraine and Russia. In both countries there is cross-party, parliamentary, and public support – but over polar opposite positions. Ukraine seeks a denunciation of Stalinist crimes, while Russia praises Stalin and ignores his crimes.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://jamestown.org/edm/article.php?article_id=2372629

3. Ukraine AIDS epidemic "most severe" in Europe: UN AFP, 1 December 2007

Ukraine's AIDS epidemic is the "most severe" in Europe, and is headed towards the general population, not only high-risk groups, UN officials said Friday in Kiev.

Twenty years after the debut of the epidemic in Ukraine, the situation was continuing to deteriorate, UN Special Envoy Lars Kallings said on the eve of World AIDS Day, December 1.

"If the spread of HIV is not stopped in the next three years, I fear that Ukraine will become the first generalised AIDS epidemic in Europe," he said.

During the first 10 months of the year, 14,480 new HIV cases were officially registered among Ukrainians, said a statement from the UN.

Officially, 119,000 HIV cases have been registered to date, but the real number has been estimated at 377,600 since the end of 2005, the statement continued.

"That means that less than one-third of all people contaminated are aware that they have the disease," it added.

Nearly 22,000 Ukrainians currently have AIDS and more than 12,000 have died, according to official statistics.

The transmission of HIV through the sharing of dirty needles between drug users is the main cause of the epidemic in the former Soviet republic, the UN reported.

But heterosexual transmission is increasingly frequent, up 20 percent per year, which the UN fears is a sign the disease is making its way into the general population.

The UN noted that 7,000 HIV-positive people were receiving retro-viral treatment in Ukraine.

That had helped slow the rate of people developing full-blown AIDS, with 3,700 new AIDS patients registered during the first 10 months of 2007 against 3,900 during the same period last year.

The UN called on Ukraine to improve its control of treating the disease.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gN-Lxupl0_zTEDt3nPE7Nzko5shg

4. Ukraine needs top class foreign intelligence – President Yushchenko Itar-Tass, 1 December 2007

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on Friday congratulated the staff of the foreign intelligence service upon the agency's 16th anniversary, the presidential press-service said.

Yushchenko said that no strategic decisions, including those in the sphere of foreign policy, were being made these days without taking into account the information and situation analysis provided by the foreign intelligence service.

"Today, as never before, Ukraine needs an up-to-date, properly equipped, high-class intelligence service capable of creating conditions for the reliable protection of national interests in no easy conditions of tough competition," he said.

Yushchenko pointed to “deeper, systemic work to identify and analyze political and economic threats to Ukraine’s national security as one of the key tasks the foreign intelligence service was facing.”

The chief of Ukraine’s foreign intelligence, Nikolai Malomuzh, said on Friday that in his opinion the idea of pooling the foreign intelligence and the security service of Ukraine (SBU) looked not very effective to him.

In his opinion “behind the idea of pooling the foreign intelligence and the security service there are certain officials or politicians that would like to concentrate the maximum strength in the hands of one secret service.”

Under the law the staff of Ukraine’s foreign intelligence is set at 4,350. The president exercises general control of the foreign intelligence service and appoints and dismisses its chief.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=12130108&PageNum=0>

5. Ukraine: Another Natural Gas Crisis Brewing Stratfor, 30 November 2007

Summary

The Turkmen government managed to force upon Russian state energy giant Gazprom a sharp price increase Nov. 29. Ashgabat's success will almost automatically translate into a new natural gas crisis involving Ukraine and Europe in 2008.

Analysis

After lengthy negotiations between Russian state natural gas monopoly Gazprom and the government of Turkmenistan under its new leader, Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov, Turkmenistan emerged Nov. 29 with agreements that Gazprom will pay sharply higher amounts for the roughly 42 billion cubic meters per year of natural gas that it imports from Turkmenistan. Currently, Ashgabat earns \$100 per thousand cubic meters (tcm). As of Jan. 1, the price will increase to \$130 per tcm, and in the second half of 2008 it will increase again to \$150.

Just because Turkmenistan has no other substantial export options does not mean that Gazprom has full freedom to dictate prices. Gazprom does not produce enough natural gas in Russia to both meet domestic Russian needs and fulfill the European export contracts from which it earns most of its income. It uses Kazakh, Uzbek and especially Turkmen natural gas to fill the gap. This, combined with Ashgabat's increasing willingness to flirt with other potential consumers such as China and the European Union, leaves Gazprom little choice but to pay more for Turkmen natural gas.

Bigger Russian payments for Turkmen natural gas, however, will force price changes elsewhere in the Eurasian natural gas network. Already Uzbekistan is letting it be known that as a supplier state that lies closer to Russia than Turkmenistan, it expects to be paid at minimum the same as Turkmenistan. Gazprom, of course, does not plan to absorb the cost itself, but will pass it along to its customers. The firm has already served notice that it plans to increase the average cost of natural gas sold to EU countries to roughly \$375 per tcm in 2008, from \$300 in 2008 (which is itself up from roughly \$100 in 2000).

While the Europeans are less than thrilled about this, it is a price burden they can shoulder (at least until alternatives come on line). But the jump to \$375 per tcm will only make the price that Ukraine pays -- currently about \$100 per tcm -- seem all the more aberrant.

Russia tends to use its energy exports not simply as the backbone of its government revenues, but also as a foreign policy tool. In the case of Ukraine, after the Orange Revolution of 2004 ushered in a pro-Western government, Gazprom attempted to quintuple natural gas prices as punishment under the

guise of moving energy relations onto a market footing. When Ukraine's government switched to a pro-Russian one, pressure from Gazprom largely vanished.

But recent elections have returned the Orange coalition to power, Gazprom now has to pay more for its natural gas, and Ukraine's current contract with Gazprom expires at the end of the year. It is almost inevitable that a fresh natural gas fight between Moscow and Kiev will erupt. The last time this happened, Russia reduced natural gas flows to Ukraine. But since supplies to downstream states in Central and Western Europe transit Ukraine and Ukraine kept taking gas from the network, many of those downstream states suffered supply reductions. Suddenly a pricing spat with officials locked in mutual dislike with Russia turned into a continent-wide geopolitical rift.

It looks like another one is just around the corner.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

http://www.stratfor.com/products/premium/read_article.php?id=299221

6. Ukraine will have to pay more for Russian gas
By Oleg Mityayev
RIA Novosti, 30 November 2007

Gazprom is likely to raise gas prices for Ukraine in 2008.

On November 27, the Russian energy giant agreed to buy Turkmenistan's gas at a higher price, and this sparked the rumor that the gas price for Ukraine would be raised since Gazprom resells Turkmen gas to Ukraine.

However, the agreement Russia and Ukraine are initially preparing already stipulates a higher price.

The leaders of Turkmenistan and Gazprom agreed on November 27 to raise the price of Turkmen gas from \$100 per 1,000 cubic meters in 2007 to \$130 in the first half of 2008 and to \$150 in July-December 2008.

Immediately afterward, Uzbekistan also expressed a desire to raise gas prices for Russia, and Gazprom will most likely have to agree since energy prices have been growing in the world year on year. Gazprom intends to raise its prices for gas supplied to Western Europe from \$250 to \$300-\$400.

Gazprom is supplying Central Asian gas, mainly from Turkmenistan, to Ukraine. Therefore, gas prices for Ukraine directly depend on the purchase prices.

Gazprom and Ukraine began negotiating new gas prices for 2008 and subsequent years some time ago. Gazprom adds \$30-\$35 to Turkmen gas it sells to Ukraine, and so it is easy to calculate the 2008 price for Ukraine. Russia bought gas from Turkmenistan at \$60 and sold it to Ukraine at \$95 in 2006, and the prices in 2007 were \$100 and \$130 respectively.

Both Ukraine and Gazprom expected the Central Asian gas producers to raise prices. Otherwise their new agreement would have stipulated a price of \$150-\$160 for Gazprom's supplies to Ukraine.

Now that Turkmenistan has announced the new price, Gazprom and Ukraine can sign the contract. Ukraine was shocked when it learned that Turkmenistan would charge Gazprom \$150 for its gas, because its 2008 budget stipulates gas allocations at \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters.

Gazprom may agree to sell gas to Ukraine at \$160 in the first half of the year, but in the second half Ukraine will most likely have to pay \$180.

Ukraine's acting Economics Minister Anatoly Kinakh has said that a price above \$180 would ruin the bulk of Ukrainian economic sectors. I would say that Ukraine will carry the burden in 2008, but the situation may become more complicated in subsequent years.

Gazprom has said more than once that it plans to convert to European prices in gas relations with Ukraine in 2011. Besides, the era of cheap Turkmen gas is ending both for Ukraine and for Gazprom. The price of Turkmenistan's gas has more than tripled in the past three years, from \$44 in 2005 to \$150 in 2008, and we can expect it to continue growing in accordance with the global trend.

The European Union is encouraging Turkmenistan to join the project to build the trans-Caspian gas pipeline running through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, bypassing Russia and Ukraine. The pipeline will deliver Turkmenistan's gas directly to Europe, where it would be able to sell it at a much higher price.

To convince Turkmenistan to continue selling its gas to Russia, Gazprom has offered it an alternative project of a pipeline running along the eastern shore of the Caspian across Russia. But to entice Turkmenistan to join this project, Russia - and Ukraine - should agree to pay much more for its gas.

The opinions expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily represent those of RIA Novosti.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20071130/90299794.html>

7. XXI Century received construction permit for Virlytsia mixed-use development DAX, 30 November 2007

XXI Century Investments, one of Ukraine's leading real estate investment, development and property management companies, today announces that it has been granted a permit to commence construction work at its Virlytsia site. The site is located on Prospekt Bazhana, the principal roadway connecting the centre of Kyiv and Boryspil International Airport in the capital of Ukraine.

The Virlytsia project ('the project') is a mixed-use development with approximately 993 000 sq. m. of total area, in a high-density residential community with a population of approximately 282 000 residents. The project is expected to comprise a shopping centre with approximately 76 000 sq. m. of GLA, a business center with approximately 230 000 sq. m. of leasable area, a 3-star hotel with approximately 300 rooms and a residential complex with approximately 206 000 sq. m. of commercial area. Transport links are already in place, with two subway stations lying adjacent to the site.

At the end of June 2007, the project was valued by Jones Lang LaSalle at US\$298.8 m, representing approximately 19% of the appraised portfolio value, making it the Company's largest portfolio asset.

Department for State Control over Architecture and Construction of Kyiv City has issued a permit to start construction works with engineering preparation of the site. The works will include reinforcing the coastal zone of the adjacent Virlytsia lake, establishing the site's transportation scheme, stripping the site and proceeding with excavation works to lay the foundations. The works are planned to start in December 2007.

The project will be developed in phases, with the completion of the first phase scheduled for the first half of 2010. The last phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

The company is currently negotiating with potential anchor tenants, including major international and local operators of hypermarket chains and multiplex movie theatres, and well-known and established operators of brand-name chain stores selling home appliances, clothing, shoes, goods for children, sports goods and other consumable goods.

The commercial concept was developed by Jones Lang LaSalle, and the chief architect for this complex is the architectural firm Benoy from the UK.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://dah.kiev.ua/content/view/828/118/>

8. Kiev and Moscow fail to agree on gas prices beyond 2008 RBC, 30 November 2007

Ukraine can only sign a gas contract with Russia for 2008, although the countries had previously planned to agree on the terms of supplies for the mid-term, as well, the Ukrainian President's Deputy Chief of Staff Alexander Shlapak told journalists today. He added that the decision to stay within the current time frame had been prompted by uncertainties surrounding the price of Turkmenistan's natural gas for 2009.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko himself announced earlier today that Kiev was planning to sign accords for the supply of imported natural gas to the country after the Russian parliamentary election on December 2. He stressed that the gas agreement had been thrashed over thoroughly and approved by the key players, which would facilitate gas supplies to Ukraine for the following five to seven years.

Gazprom and Ukraine are currently in talks over gas prices for 2008 and the mid term.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.rbcnews.com/free/20071130165311.shtml>

9. Blowback From Moscow By PAT BUCHANAN Yahoo! News, 1 December 2007

Our next president will likely face a Russia led by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, determined to stand up to a West that Russians believe played them for fools when they sought to be friends.

Americans who think Putin has never been anything but a KGB thug will reject accusations of any U.S. role in causing the ruination of relations between us.

Yet the hubris of Bill Clinton and George Bush I, and the Russophobia of those they brought with them into power, has been a primary cause of the ruptured relationship. And the folly of what they did is evident today, as Putin's party, United Russia, rolls to triumph on a torrent of abuse and invective against the West.

Entering the campaign's final week, Putin, addressing a rally of 5,000, ripped the Other Russia coalition led by chess champion Gary Kasparov as poodles of the United States, "who sponge off foreign embassies ... and who count on the support of foreign resources and governments, and not of their own people."

"Those who oppose us," roared Putin, "don't want our plans to be completed. They have completely different tasks and a completely different view of Russia. They need a weak, sick state, a disoriented, divided society, so that behind its back they can get up to their dirty deeds and profit at your and my expense."

Putin is referring to the time of the "oligarchs" of the Yeltsin era, who looted Russia when its state assets were sold off at fire-sale prices.

Putin is also accusing his opponents of attempting to use the Western-devised tactics of mass street protests to bring down his government. "Now that they have learned some things from Western specialists and tried them in the neighboring republics, they are going to try them on our streets."

Putin is talking here about the "color-coded" revolutions that the U.S. and NATO embassies, the National Endowment for Democracy, and allied foundations and front groups engineered in Ukraine and Georgia. Governments tilting toward Moscow were dumped over and pro-Western regimes installed — to bid for membership in NATO and the European Union.

Blowback is a term broadly used in espionage to describe the unintended consequences of covert operations. The revolution that brought the Ayatollah to power is said to be blowback for the U.S.-engineered coup to overthrow Mossadegh in 1953 and install the Shah.

The nationalism and anti-Americanism rife in Putin's Russia is blowback for our contemptuous disregard of Russian sensibilities and our arrogant intrusions into Russia's space. How did we lose a Russia that Ronald Reagan and Bush I had virtually converted into an ally?

We pushed NATO into Moscow's face, bringing six ex-Warsaw Pact nations and three ex-Soviet republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — into our Cold War alliance and plotted to bring in Ukraine and Georgia.

We financed a pipeline from Baku through Georgia to the Black Sea to cut Russia out of the Caspian oil trade. After getting Moscow's permission to use old Soviet bases in Central Asia to invade Afghanistan, we set about making the bases permanent. We pulled out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty over Moscow's objection, then announced plans to plant ABM radars in the Czech Republic and anti-missile missiles in Poland.

Putin has now responded in kind, and who can blame him?

As we tried to cut him out of the Azerbaijan oil with a Black Sea pipeline, he is slashing subsidies on Ukraine's oil and colluding with Germany on a Baltic Sea pipeline to cut Poland out of the oil trade with Western Europe.

As we moved our alliance and bases into his front and back yard, he has entered a quasi-alliance with China and four nations of Central Asia to expel U.S. military power from the region.

As we abandoned the ABM Treaty, the Duma, in November, voted 418 to 0 to suspend participation in the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, which restricts the size of the Russian army west of the Urals.

If we recognize Kosovo as independent, at the expense of Serbia, Putin is now threatening to recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the breakaway republics of Georgia and Transnistria, claimed by Moldova.

Where we backed the Orange Revolution in Ukraine and the Rose Revolution in Georgia, Russia backs its favorites in Kiev and supports street protests in Tbilisi against the pro-American regime of Mikhail Saakashvili, whom the United States now seems powerless to help.

It was not NATO that liberated Eastern Europe. Moscow did — by pulling out the Red Army after half a century. Why, then, did we think moving NATO into Eastern Europe was a surer guarantee of their continued independence than the goodwill of Russia?

Many among our foreign policy elite now talk of a Second Cold War. John McCain wants Russia kicked out of the G-8.

But do we not have enough enemies already that we should add the largest nation on earth?

To find out more about Patrick Buchanan, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/uc/20071130/cm_uc_crpbox/op_334526

10. Armed Forces General HQ Head Kyrychenko Estimates Transition To Contract Army Constriction Starting 2010 At UAH 40 Billion Ukrainian News Agency, 2 December 2007

Head of the general headquarters of the Armed Forces Serhii Kyrychenko believes that transition to contract-based army constriction starting 2010 requires over UAH 40 billion.

He told this at the briefing.

«The price will be UAH 40 billion in 2008, 2009, 2010. This funding is possible with 2% of GDP in 2008, 3% in 2009 and 2010,» he said.

As Ukrainian News reported, President Viktor Yuschenko has directed the Cabinet of Ministers and the Defense Ministry to complete by December 30 itemizing of all the financial calculations and expenditures necessary for transforming the Ukrainian army into a contract army.

Yuschenko is insisting that a professional army should not be introduced before 2010.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/84170.html>

11. Hrytsenko Arranges Housing Commission Under Defense Ministry Ukrainian News Agency, 2 December 2007

Acting Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko has endorsed a provision on housing commissions in the Armed Forces.

Press service of the Defense Ministry disclosed this to Ukrainian News.

Hrytsenko's decree defines procedure and organization of the commission's work and is meant to improve provision of militaries and members of their families with dwelling.

The decree defines that housing commissions register and strike out militaries from the list, supervise distribution and supply of housing.

Commission of the central apparatus will be formed under the Defense Ministry, and under the Armed Forces -garrison commissions, commissions of national security structures, military units, training institutions, and other organizations of the Armed Forces.

As Ukrainian News reported, the Cabinet has approved procedures for providing military personnel and members of their families with housing.

A total of 45,528 military personnel were on the waiting lists for housing as of August 2005, including over 13,000 who have been on waiting lists for more than 10 years.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/84010.html>

12. Baloha Accused of Behind-the-Scene Talks Kommersant-Ukraine/Ukrayinska Pravda, 1 December 2007

People's *Rukh* of Ukraine leader Borys Tarasyuk accuses Head of the President's Secretariat Viktor Baloha of having negotiated with the Party of Regions (PRU) without any notification to the NU-NS bloc council.

This was stated by Mr. Tarasyuk in his interview with *Kommersant-Ukraine* newspaper.

"He had been holding talks over a broad coalition with PRU without knowledge of the bloc council. It was he who led the election campaign which caused many our votes lost. He also supervised those who did not sign a preliminary coalition agreement. The fact brought about negative reaction both within the domestic society and abroad," mentioned the politician.

According to him, Mr. Baloha is, in fact, almost fully responsible for all the negative events throughout the coalition formation process.

Commenting on Mr. Baloha's denying the accusations, Mr. Tarasyuk stated, "Whatever he says, I reaffirm that he has been negotiating with PRU. My conviction is based on many people's statements."

Mr. Tarasyuk also maintains that Mr. Baloha was playing his game behind the President's back.

"The President himself and his surrounding headed by Mr. Baloha are different. Unfortunately, the President is not aware of everything which is going on in his surrounding. The system built up by Mr. Baloha rules out any possibility that the President should receive an alternative idea not agreed with Mr. Baloha," said Mr. Tarasyuk.

To his mind, Mr. Baloha recurs to activities of Mr. Medvedchuk [the head of the President's Kuchma administration from 2002 till 2005] when 'the Secretariat started substituting the President'.

Mr. Tarasyuk does not see Mr. Baloha at any leading post in the new party to be formed on the basis of the bloc.

"If he supports the platform and follows the party principles, he can easily be a rank-and-file member. But I do not see him as one of the party leaders," he stressed.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www2.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/12/1/9513.htm>

13. Yatsenyuk Receives One Voice Pro Ukrayinska Pravda, 1 December 2007

Mr. Anatoliy Hrytsenko, Defence Minister, believes that Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk will be elected head of Verkhovna Rada only subject to unanimous voting of faction members of Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense for his candidature.

It was stated by him for UNIAN on Friday answering the question whether Mr. Yatsenyuk would be elected the Speaker of Parliament.

"I think if a decision is adopted by faction, it will be unanimous. And he (Mr. Yatsenyuk) will be elected. I will give my voice for him," said Mr. Hrytsenko.

"Only unanimous voting may guarantee the stability of coalition, and if there is 'if', there will be no coalition," he added.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www2.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/12/1/9510.htm>

14. BYuT Objects to President's Interests Upon Parliament Ukrayinska Pravda, 1 December 2007

MP from BYuT Mykola Tomenko does not support the idea that the coalition in parliament should be considered as the one under the President.

He said this is his interview to *Ukrayinske radio*.

According to him, the threat arises from the fact that some politicians are regarding the democratic force coalition as a coalition under the President.

In this connection, to their point of view, all the key issues are to be adopted only after having agreed them with the President.

Mr. Tomenko claims the approach inappropriate as a parliamentary coalition is a union of political parties and blocs but not a group under anyone's authority.

"For this very reason, the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (NU-NS) bloc came up against a problem when it failed to choose a candidacy for the Speaker's post and was still hesitating at the point," the MP underlined.

At the same time, he called it dangerous when 'seven persons blackmailed the whole coalition'.

"If those people who blackmail their political forces to demand changes in office distribution and indulge their personal wishes are not seen in proper perspective in their parties, this could be taken by other MP as a bad example how to settle their personal matters," he stressed.

"In fact, now two MPs are enough to blackmail the whole coalition and ruin the BYuT-NU-NS union," Mr. Tomenko underscores.

On Tuesday, President Viktor Yushchenko in his interview with BBC stated that Ukrainian parliament would at last receive a coalition to be relied on by the President.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www2.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/12/1/9512.htm>

15. BYUT member Mykola Tomenko confident of strength of democratic coalition NRCU, 1 December 2007

Mr Tomenko said the coalition will be enhanced by electing the Verkhovna Rada leadership, a new Government and passing the state budget.

In his interview to the "Ukrainian Radio" Mykola Tomenko said the coalition will thrive given its members make an in-depth analysis of difficulties in its formation. He noted that both the Regions Party and "Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense" members were in charge of lingering formation of the coalition. Mr Tomenko also slammed an opinion that the coalition of democratic forces will operate within the President and will be assisted by him in any controversial issues. This is why, the "Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense" cannot make its final choice of the speaker, Mykola Tomenko said. He also seeks the "Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense" to hit back a blackmail by seven representatives of the pro-presidential party, who were against the coalition because of personal ambitions and opportunities for personal gains.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=56235>

16. EBRD provides loan to Ukrainian port of Illichivsk Infrasite, 30 November 2007

€26 million to support modernisation of the major port in the Black Sea

London, United Kingdom - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is providing a €26 million sovereign guaranteed loan to Illichivsk Sea Commercial Port, one of the largest ports in Ukraine. The fifteen-year loan will help the port carry out a programme of modernisation that includes berth reconstruction, procurement of the cargo handling equipment and dredging works.

According to Sue Barrett, the EBRD's Acting Director for Transport, the project fits perfectly with the Bank's transport strategy for Ukraine. It will help in resolving a critical transport bottleneck in the region by supporting modernisation of major general cargo handling facilities in the Black Sea area. Furthermore, it will support corporate development and commercialisation of the Port through introducing business planning, IFRS audit and strengthening of the Port's in-house capacity in strategic development and management of its relationships with the private operators, she said.

Technical Cooperation support for this project was provided by the European Union (EU) under a TACIS-funded framework contract for technical and environmental due-diligence. Support was also provided under the EU's 2002 Investment Preparation Facility, to assist with the corporate development of the Port.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is the biggest financial investor in Ukraine. As of the end October 2007 it had committed over €3 billion through more than 155 projects.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.infrasite.nl/news/news_article.php?ID_nieuwsberichten=8702&language=en

17. Outside View: Moscow relief at higher cost By IGOR TOMBERG UPI, 30 November 2007

MOSCOW -- When Turkmenistan announced last week it would raise the gas price for Gazprom by 30 percent, the Russian energy giant actually sighed with relief.

It had long expected Ashgabat to raise the prices, and \$130 per 1,000 cubic meters is a moderate price for today, considerably lower than the rumored \$150. In the end, the news is one more proof that Russia's increase of gas prices for Ukraine is justified.

On the other hand, an agreement on new prices has not been signed yet. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said Ukraine was prepared to pay \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters; this is not a contractual price but only a vocalized desire. The price might be \$180, depending on the format and party leanings of the new Ukrainian Cabinet and the board of Ukraine's state-owned oil and gas company Naftogaz.

Prices are not the only problem in gas relations between Moscow and Kiev. Another problem is debts, which the two sides addressed a month ago. The system of paying for Russian gas through the sole supplier of Russian gas to the country, RosUkrEnerg, which is 50 percent owned by Gazprom, malfunctioned because of the rapidly growing consumer debts.

The debt portfolio of RosUkrEnerg went from \$100 million to \$3 billion in 2006. By October 2007 the debts of Naftogaz to RosUkrEnerg exceeded \$700 million, and UkrGazEnerg, a joint venture established by RosUkrEnerg and Naftogaz, owed \$300 million.

The debt problem showed that it is not enough to make direct gas deliveries to Ukraine; it is also essential for the clients to pay for them. Analysts encouraging Gazprom to learn the routine of collecting payments cannot be serious. Gazprom said logically that if the political future of the Ukrainian authorities depends on Russian gas deliveries, they should ensure the uninterrupted operation of effective, if not very efficient, schemes.

The signature of Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych on the agreement on debt repayment will settle the problem, but it would also make the Ukrainian government the guarantor of repayment. This will give Gazprom a formal pretext for turning off gas in case of debts arrears. If Yulia Tymoshenko comes to power, it will be much more difficult to make the Ukrainian authorities pay for Russian gas.

Even a layman will tell you that Gazprom will have problems with its clients. Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and other former Soviet republics depend on Russian gas deliveries almost fully, while Europe imports 25 percent of its gas requirements from Russia. Yet gas prices depend on European deliveries, and their growth will determine Gazprom's strategy of gradually leveling off prices for all of its clients.

Gas prices are growing rapidly, and Russia will have more conflicts with the former Soviet countries over its attempts to adjust gas prices to European standards.

Gazprom intends to raise gas prices for Western Europe by 60 percent in 2008. Deputy CEO Alexander Medvedev, head of Gazprom Export, said on Nov. 20 that gas prices for Western Europe might grow from the current \$250 to \$300-\$400 next year.

A "third gas war" may be provoked not only by growing energy prices and the fall of the U.S. dollar. According to Medvedev, Gazprom believes that the European Commission's plans to liberalize the EU energy market are spearheaded at the Russian gas monopoly's investment plans.

"The liberalization of the European (energy) market will create a situation where prices will soar," he said.

This may threaten Gazprom's plans to increase its share in gas supplies to Europe to 33 percent by 2015 in response to the growing gas consumption. Putting forth the concern's views on the European energy initiatives, Medvedev warned the EU about "a serious negative effect (this may have) on long-term supplies of natural gas to Europe," unless the European Commission revises its stance. He even hinted that Gazprom might turn off gas, as it did in relations with Ukraine and Belarus.

The expected decision by Turkmenistan to raise gas prices for Gazprom is one more proof of the global trend of unstoppable growth of fuel and energy prices. The process is bound to provoke conflicts, because the clashing interests of the supplier and the consumer increase tensions at the price talks.

One more factor in the case of Russia's CIS neighbors is the psychology of consumers who had received Russian natural gas for peanuts for many years. No wonder the transition to market relations is so painful. Moscow has put an end to its fuel paternalism and is also ending its strategy of using subsidies to support domestic producers. All consumers will soon have to pay market (read: high) prices.

Gas-consuming countries have long sensed the trend. Brussels is thinking of diversifying gas supply routes yet has put Nord Stream to deliver natural gas from Russia to Europe along the bottom of the Baltic Sea on the list of priority projects, contrary to its own directives. Europe knows that it will be unable to satisfy its growing energy and environmental requirements without Russian gas.

Likewise, the CIS countries are aware of the worth of Russian gas, which is why 10 out of the 12 CIS prime ministers came to Ashgabat for a routine meeting last week, the highest attendance ever. All of them wanted to know the price of Turkmenistan's gas for Gazprom, but the news was made public only after the end of the meeting.

Gas suppliers and consumers in the Commonwealth of Independent States should at least coordinate their actions, if not act jointly. "We need an alliance of gas transiting, exporting and producing countries," Yanukovych said.

Although nobody openly supported the idea of a "gas OPEC" in Ashgabat, the centripetal trend is growing stronger by the day. Gas suppliers from the former Soviet countries will be able to coordinate their actions after they sign the agreement to build the Caspian pipeline. It is clear that Gazprom will accept the new price of the Turkmen gas, thereby opening the door to its expanded deliveries through the Russian gas transportation network.

The presidents of Russia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan are expected to sign the agreement in December, thus expanding gas transit from Central Asia across Russia. The construction of the Caspian pipeline and the expansion of the Central Asia-Center system will together account for some 100 billion cubic meters of gas a year.

Is an increase of \$30 per 1,000 cubic meters too much to pay for promoting gas cooperation of the CIS countries?

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(Igor Tomberg is a senior research fellow with the Center for Energy Studies, the Institute of World Economy and International Relations at the Russian Academy of Sciences. This article is reprinted by permission of RIA Novosti. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily represent those of RIA Novosti.)

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Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Energy/Analysis/2007/11/30/outside_view_moscow_relief_a_t_higher_cost/3962/

18. Crimes of Soviet secret services in Western Ukraine revealed Eurasian Security Services Daily Review, 2 December 2007

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has publicised documents on special-task groups of the Ministry of State Security (MGB) of the USSR which gave out themselves for soldiers of Ukraine's Insurgent Army (UPA)/ Ukrainian Underground Army (OUN/UPA) and operated in the western areas of Ukraine in 1944-1954, online paper CityNews reports.

According to the head of Branch State Archive of the SBU, Sergei Bogunov, documents have been found in the archive of intelligence agency attesting that the special-task groups during performance of the mission gave out themselves for one of divisions of the OUN/UPA and operated on its behalf. An operative who carried out practical guidance of the group which represented fighting unit of 3-50 persons entered into structure of groups. Such special-task groups carried out tasks on check-up of information concerning the persons suspected of participation in underground OUN/UPA, their capture, reception of evidence by interrogation on behalf of Security service or heads of the OUN centres.

Up to the end of 1945 communist law-enforcement bodies and state security agencies used 150 special-task groups consisting of 1,800 persons. In April, 1945, the special-task groups have been disbanded and in further they were authorized to be used only by the city and regional bodies of the MGB. As of February, 1950, there was 19 special-task groups consisting of 130 persons.

According to Bogunov, there is no generalized data on the activity of these formations, as the majority of materials has been destroyed in 1990, and only separate data is available in the SBU archive. As of July 1, 1945, the special-task groups have liquidated 1,980 underground activists and seized 1,142 people. At the same time the surviving archival materials attest that the special-task groups committed grave crimes against local residents, CityNews notes.

AIA already reported on announcement of the acting Chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine, Valentin Nalyvaychenko, who speaking on air of the Ukrainian 5th TV channel said the SBU possessed the document demonstrating crimes committed by the agents of the Soviet Ministry of State Security, who destroyed people in the Western Ukraine dressed up as soldiers of Ukraine's Insurgent Army.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.axisglobe.com/article.asp?article=1441>

19. UN: Ukraine Has Most Severe AIDS Epidemic in Europe Ukrainian Observer, 1 December 2007

Lars Kallings, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe visited Ukraine in connection with World AIDS Day on December 1. His message was simple and direct: Ukraine has the most severe AIDS epidemic in all of Europe.

"Twenty years since the AIDS epidemic started in Ukraine, the global epidemic is showing signs of leveling off, but the epidemic in Ukraine continues to deteriorate," warned Professor Kallings. "Ukraine now has the most severe AIDS epidemic in Europe. If the spread of HIV is not reversed in the next three years, I fear that Ukraine will develop the first generalized AIDS epidemic in Europe."

During the first ten months of 2007, there were 14,480 new cases of HIV infection officially registered among citizens of Ukraine - equivalent to 48 new cases per day, up from 43 cases per day in 2006. According to national estimates, there are over 377,600 people with HIV in Ukraine, but only 119,000 cases have been officially registered. This indicates that less than one-third of all infected people in Ukraine are even aware of their HIV status.

Dr. Gundo Weiler, Chair of United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in Ukraine added, "Ukraine is at risk of missing a majority of the targets it adopted for Universal Access by 2010."

HIV transmission among injecting drug users (IDUs) and other vulnerable people is still driving the HIV epidemic in Ukraine. By mid 2007, less than 30 percent of injecting drug users were being reached with harm reduction programs. An impact on the epidemic would be expected only when over 60 percent of IDUs in Ukraine, or at least 190,000 of all injecting drug users had been reached with harm reduction or other HIV prevention programs.

Injecting drug use is also a contributing factor to HIV transmission in prisons. Over 5000 inmates are infected with HIV, but only a few prisons are taking effective actions.

Children and young people living on the street remain among the most underserved populations: the majority is using drugs and many are involved in sex trade. HIV prevalence among victims of human trafficking from Ukraine is now almost twice as high as the national average.

The rapid increase in heterosexual transmission of HIV raises concerns that the epidemic will "bridge" into the general population. In the last 12 months, heterosexual transmission of HIV has increased by 20 percent.

The number of HIV-positive women giving birth continues to increase. Efforts need to be intensified to lower the rate of transmission from mother to child.

Focus on primary prevention of HIV among the general population is of paramount importance for a successful response to AIDS. Efforts should be strengthened to reach every woman, every man, and every young person with general prevention information and behavior changing techniques, including HIV prevention programs in the workplace.

The number of people receiving life-saving antiretroviral treatment (ART) in Ukraine has increased by more than 2000 to over 7000. However, the gap between treatment needs and the demand for ART is widening: by 2010, an estimated 50,000 people will need ART in Ukraine, or face death from AIDS.

The UN believes that treatment for HIV needs to be coupled with treatment for associated conditions, such as TB or drug dependence and that substitution treatment is the most effective way to reduce illicit drug use among drug injectors. However, Ukraine's ministry of health is steadfastly opposed to methadone, the most widely used substitute for heroin in other parts of the world. The UN estimates that at least 60,000 IDUs in Ukraine could benefit from this proven treatment. Currently less than 600 IDUs are enrolled in substitution treatment in Ukraine.

The UN's statements involved a considerable level of direct and implied criticism of Ukraine's national leaders. "Despite extensive public announcements by senior political leaders in Ukraine, consistent leadership on AIDS is still lacking. There is an urgent need to strengthen the management capacity on AIDS of the Government of Ukraine, both at the national and regional levels," stated Dr. Anna Shakarishvili, Head of UN Joint Team on HIV/AIDS.

The UN also pointed out that the national body to coordinate the national AIDS response in Ukraine - the National Council on AIDS and TB - is still not fully functional.

The UN welcomed the Government's decision to initiate the development of a new National State Program on AIDS for 2009-2013. The Program should be endorsed by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and needs to set measurable targets and have a clear mechanism for the disbursement of budget allocations.

The UN System in Ukraine reaffirmed its commitment to provide technical support to strengthen the capacity of the Ukrainian Government, employers, trade unions, business and civil society organizations in the national response to AIDS.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://ukraine-observer.com/index.php?c=557>

20. Genocide Nearly Forgotten by History
By S. John Massoud
American Thinker, 1 December 2007

The past week saw the anniversary of one of the great tragedies of history overlooked by most of the US mainstream media. On November 24th 75 years ago, Stalin announced plans to collectivize all grain from his people, in an attempt to enforce "true socialism" on the people for their own good. This Holodomor (forced famine) sentenced millions of Ukrainians to their deaths.

It amazes me that the mainstream media seem to have missed this day for whatever reason. Now I am glad that they cover Darfur, and that they did cover to some degree the 1 million Rwandans killed during the mid 1990's. However at the most, 250,000 Sudanese have been killed in Darfur, and maybe 800,000 Tutsis and a few thousand more moderate Hutus were killed, because Kofi Annan (UN Deputy Secretary for Genocide) and then-President Bill Clinton refused to do anything.

Estimates for the number of Ukrainians who perished under range anywhere from 2 million to 10 million. The true number will never be known. The famed Ukrainian historian Stanislav Kulchitsky has the number closer to 3.5 million. Unfortunately records were not that good at the time. Most people who were born then and survived do not know their exact age or birth date.

It began on November 24, 1932, with an order raising the quota for the state procurement of grain and wound up as an all-out forced collectivization of agriculture. Ukraine was hit hardest because it was the breadbasket of the Soviet Union. People were given a "choice": To leave their land and join a collective farm, or be sent to Siberia. Most were sent to Siberia or starved under this "workers paradise".

Last month I was in the Ukraine visiting my family, and got to meet my babushka (Russian word for grandmother), Darina. Darina is in her 80's and has lived in her little house for her entire life. She was a little girl when Stalin forced the food production quotas on the Ukraine people.

Through an interpreter, I asked Darina if she had any memory of Stalin. And this kindly proud old lady who has toughed through everything that humanity (The Nazis came through the Ukraine on their way to Stalingrad) and Mother Nature can throw at a person and survived it, became visibly frightened and started to shake. So many years after Stalin and the Soviets left the stage, what they did still terrifies her. She was unable to speak about it.

Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko has properly recognized this forced labor as genocide. So has President Bush and approximately 26 countries of the world. But we must remember what a "workers paradise" really means: The infliction of pain on the worker for the good of the government.

From this to Pol Pot to Mao's Cultural Revolution, a government with too much power will kill its own, in the name of the greater good. 3.5 million Ukrainians would most likely agree with that sentiment.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

http://www.americanthinker.com/2007/12/genocide_nearly_forgotten_by_h.html

21. All sewn up: Business owners use skills from home countries to find success in the U.S.

By Dustin Shipman

Joplin Globe, 30 November 2007

Vika Timoshchenko and Alla Morris each came to the United States in search of a good place to raise a family.

Though they didn't know one another before coming to Joplin, they're now stitching themselves a new life and have created a successful business venture along the way.

Timoshchenko, formerly of Russia, and Morris, from Ukraine, are owners of Executive Tailoring, a tailoring and alteration business at 618 Kentucky Ave.

Timoshchenko grew up in northern Russia and came to the United States with her family in 1998 looking for a safe community to raise her children.

While she had a college degree and was working as a mechanical engineer building submarines in Arkhangelsk, Russia, she soon found out that there was little work in her field in Carthage.

She decided that there was a skill she possessed that she could offer the community: sewing and alterations. It was something that she had learned how to do in school and was •• more of a household chore. Before long, she and a partner started their own business in Carthage making alterations and designing costumes and wedding dresses.

"When we came to America, it was a very big change," Timoshchenko said. "In Russia, we all had different jobs but we all sew. But when you come to America, it was so strange because this is so popular there, everyone needs to alter something ... so business has been very good because there are not too many businesses here like ours."

For five years, the business grew until eventually Timoshchenko would make the move to Joplin and set up shop on 20th Street. Many of her old customers liked her work enough to make the trip from Carthage, and she began picking up new ones in Joplin.

The sewing and alterations business thrived, and Timoshchenko soon began passing on extra work to Morris, a new friend who shared a similar story.

After coming to the United States five years ago from Ukraine to raise a family with her new husband, Morris was doing alterations out of her Joplin home. She would help her friend Timoshchenko when the workload got too heavy; likewise, Morris would seek help when she had more business than she could handle.

Eventually, Timoshchenko's partner moved to Tulsa, Okla., and she and Morris went into business together as Executive Tailoring at their current location.

"We learned to sew in school, I got a sewing degree from school and then I went to college and got a business degree. But when you come to America, you can't use your college degree here," Morris said. "So if someone needs a costume or a wedding dress or something like that, you can bring in a picture or just tell us what you are looking for and I can do a sketch and make it."

The two women said that their work is becoming known, and they have customers who come to them from as far away as Kansas City.

"I think people go for quality and that is really our main goal," Morris said. "Quality is very important to us."

Walking into their shop, one can't help but feel that they are meeting old friends excited to see you walk in their front door.

"We both enjoy it here a lot. The people are so nice and people don't just come here to order something, they come to talk," Morris said. "Some of the customers have become very good friends."

For more information about Executive Tailoring, call 782-7140.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

http://www.joplinglobe.com/weekend/local_story_334171153.html?keyword=topstory