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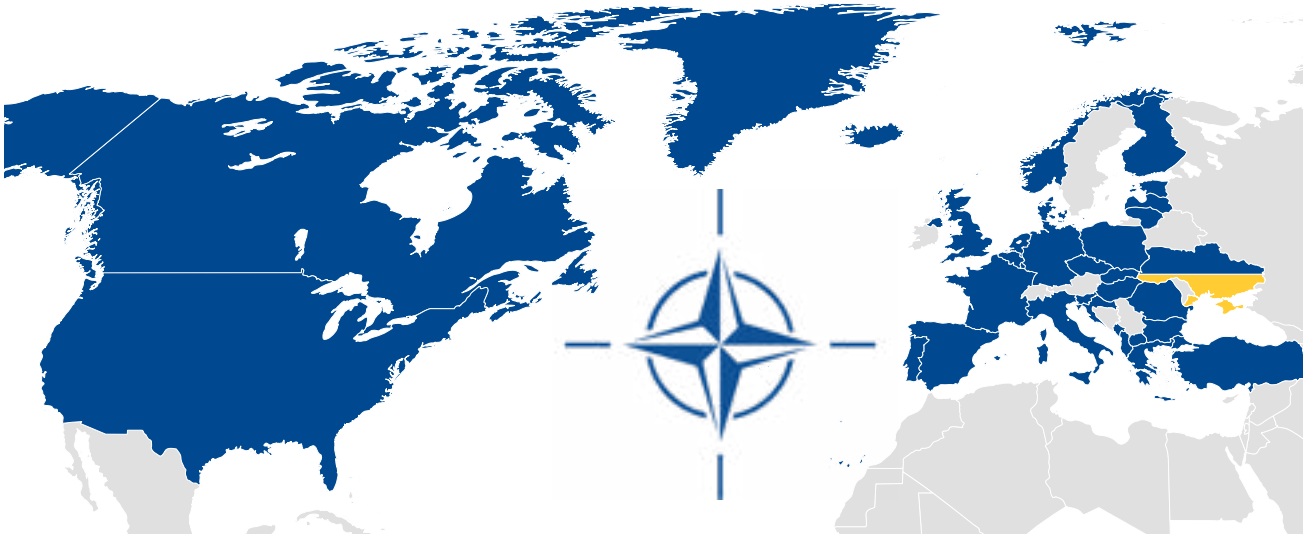
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INVITATION TO NATO IS THE CLOSEST PATH TO PEACE



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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | Notes for September

ZELENSKYY MEETS WITH BIDEN



The visit of the President of Ukraine to the United States, where Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, and then met with U.S. President Joseph Biden in Washington, D.C., was probably the highlight of this month. We all understand that the United States is entering a new election cycle, and this is always reflected in foreign policy issues. Probably, many people – and especially in Ukraine – had the illusion that the “great war” that Vladimir Putin started last February should be over before the US presidential election. However, this is definitely not in Putin’s interests, who will do everything possible to ensure that the war continues throughout the election year and will continue into the transition of power in the White House – if, of course, such a transition takes place. The Russian president will decide on his tactics in the war after he realizes who will be the next owner of the White House – Joseph Biden or Donald Trump. And Putin’s strategic goals – the destruction of the Ukrainian state and Russia’s return to the 1991 USSR borders – remain unchanged, and he will make every effort to realize them. Even the session of the UN General Assembly demonstrated this clearly. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who, like Volodymyr Zelenskyy, spoke at both the Assembly session and the UN Security Council meeting, actually rejected any realistic negotiations with Kyiv, and called UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ proposals to restore the grain deal unrealizable. Lavrov used the same definitions to describe the Ukrainian president’s “peace formula.” Moscow does not even think about the possibility of restoring Ukraine’s territorial integrity and continues to perceive any nego-

tiations as Ukraine’s surrender. And if there is no such surrender, well, then we will have to solve the problem on the battlefield, Lavrov belligerently declared. What else could one expect from Moscow?

Therefore, the Ukrainian president’s task during his visit to the United States was to understand how the United States would continue to help Ukraine and how to prevent possible “war fatigue” and the very discussion of support. That is why not only the meeting of the presidents took place, but Volodymyr Zelenskyy also visited Congress, although not as solemnly as last time. And this routine of meetings is the best proof that Ukraine’s war with Russia, with all its horrors, has already become routine for us and our partners, and we are all learning to live in this reality of a long and relentless war.

Of course, much will depend on the outcome of the Ukrainian offensive, but not only that. It is not without reason that after Zelenskyy’s return from the United States, Michael Pyle, the White House Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics, sent a letter to the Donor Coordination Board a letter with a list of specific changes and reforms that Ukraine should make in the near future to continue assistance. These are very serious and specific reforms in many areas, so Mr. Pyle also sent the letter to President Zelenskyy’s office and to Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. And in fact, the appearance of such a document is good in itself, because it means that no one in Washington is thinking about the possibility of Ukraine’s defeat on the battlefield, but instead are interested in reforming the country as quickly as possible and helping to do so.

But behind the scenes of the presidential talks, many important questions remained, the answers to which will be crucial to understanding how this war can end and whether it can end at all in the coming years. The first question is not even about Ukraine’s successes on the battlefield, but about guarantees of Ukraine’s security and Euro-Atlantic integration. Theoretically, the Ukrainian Armed Forces can liberate the Russian-occupied territories, but does this mean that this will be the end of the war? Hopes for this are not so much based on real

political analysis as on the magical belief that Russians, angry at the loss of Crimea or Donbas, will overthrow Putin and his successor will abandon the war. Assumptions that Ukraine’s return to the 1991 borders would not mean the end of the war, but only another stage of it, and that Putin’s power would be little threatened, are not even considered. Meanwhile, the possibility still exists that Ukraine will exist for years, if not decades, alongside an aggressive Russia whose efforts will be aimed at destabilizing and destroying Ukraine. That is why I would like to understand how likely it is that Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic integration will progress at the NATO summit in Washington next year. I hope that the presidents will talk about this as well. Without NATO, Ukraine is doomed to a long war and to a repeat of Russia’s attack soon after Putin’s “special operation” ends. At the same time, we must understand that Ukraine literally does not have the mobilization potential for several wars. So if we really want to see Ukraine transformed into a reformed democratic state, the United States should think not only about how Ukraine will carry out its important reforms, but also about how it will fight back against Russia.

I hope that the American visit contributed to this understanding. Especially since the war is really losing its “sacredness,” as it always does with long wars. And for many of Ukraine’s true allies, their own domestic political issues are becoming more important than the problems of war. A perfect illustration of this was Ukraine’s unexpected conflict with Poland, whose right-wing populist government on the eve of the parliamentary elections imposed unilateral restrictions on the import of Ukrainian grain, contrary to previous agreements between Ukraine, the European Commission, Poland and other Central European countries. In Warsaw, it is already being said that the Polish right, terrified of losing power, will do anything to preserve it, even cooperation and unity with Ukraine. But until recently, it would have been hard to imagine such an open and demonstrative conflict, simply because the actions of politicians would not have met with the support of voters. The behavior of the

Polish right shows that they rely on "war fatigue" and an unwillingness to make economic sacrifices for their own electorate, otherwise, there would undoubtedly be no conflict over grain.

That is why all of these are alarming

signals that we need to pay attention to. When we discuss the very possibility of a long war, do we realize all its dangers – not only for Ukraine, but also for our allies in the West? Do we realize that a long uninterrupted war is not ours, but Putin's scenario and its

results are already evident, at least in the conflict between Kyiv and Warsaw. And what exactly should we do to prevent this scenario? These are the questions that Zelenskyy and Biden should ask themselves and each other.

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Kakinuki Law Office PC
垣貫法律事務所 PC

John Kakinuki, Attorney
 弁護士 垣貫 ジョン

Tel 415-492-2011
 Fax 415-492-2012
 john@kakinukilaw.com
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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

ELECTIONS AND UKRAINE



Fascist Russia has inflicted colossal blows on Ukraine. First and foremost, it is the irreparable loss of tens of thousands of Ukrainians, women, children, civilians and military personnel, and this loss cannot be replenished, no one can bring back the dead. The second blow is to Ukrainian infrastructure. Ukrainians are already rebuilding destroyed homes to the best of their ability, and in time we will rebuild larger facilities, and when we drive out the last occupier, it will be time to rebuild completely destroyed settlements, such as Bakhmut.

Less obvious, but nevertheless also painful, is the third blow that fascist Russia has dealt to Ukrainian democracy. Objectively, after the beginning of full-scale Russian aggression, the concentration of power became an auxiliary factor for the successful establishment of a system of resistance. The overwhelming majority of society understood and accepted the monopolization of media resources, most notably the "Single National Telethon" that concentrated the efforts of several previously competitive TV channels. The ban on men's travel abroad was also outlawed by the Constitution, but this step was also welcomed by the majority of society, as it has not yet become clear that this obstacle is in no way correlated with the need to replenish the Ukrainian army with mobilization resources. Over the past six months, Ukraine has begun to discuss the upcoming elections, and it has become clear that the government is not going to hold them on time, and the majority of society is not yet ready not only for the election process, but even for discussing its necessity. The quintessence of the current political processes in Ukraine was the phrase of the First Deputy Speaker of the

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksandr Kornienko, formerly the head of the Servant of the People party, who is clearly associated with Volodymyr Zelenskyy: "We are now testing a model of transition from a parliamentary-presidential state to a presidential state with a strong president." In the end, the model of government, presidential or parliamentary, can be in line with the norms of democracy, so there is no fraud in the thesis itself. Although Ukraine has been a presidential state even before, only two usurpers on the European continent have more formal and informal powers than Putin and his sycophant Lukashenko.

Nevertheless, in order to confront the fascist enemy, there is a need to concentrate power, so it is incorrect to compare the Ukrainian political system with European practice, where, as a rule, presidents (with the exception of France) do not have such strong powers as in Ukraine. But what we have to compare is the existence of elections. After all, both we and Western politicians often repeat the phrase that Ukraine is not only defending itself against Russian fascism, but is also defending democratic values around the world. And democratic values include democratic procedures. Democracy consists of many components, and the first element is the election of the authorities. Ukraine will no longer be able to hold elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the scheduled date of October 29, 2023. On July 27, 2023, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the extension of martial law until November 16, which means that elections will definitely not take place this year. But will the elections take place next year? There is no direct prohibition on holding presidential elections during martial law next spring, unlike the elections to the Verkhovna Rada, but the authorities do not show any desire to hold elections. Prime Minister Shmyhal has already stated that there are no funds in the budget for next year, which is a direct violation of the current legislation, because from a formal point of view, even the current martial law is extended for only 3 months, meaning that it has not yet been extended for next year. Today, there is rather a pub-

lic consensus against the elections: a) the current government is against the elections, b) the political opposition is against the elections, c) the majority of society is against the elections.

The authorities are against the elections because most of them are not eager to part with their seats of power in different countries, especially since in Ukraine, being in power automatically means having many advantages, including material ones, and in particular those not spelled out in any legislation. Sociology shows a high personal rating of 50-60% for Zelenskyy, so he would hardly be in danger of losing, but many members of the Verkhovna Rada fear that they will no longer be included in the list.

The political opposition is worried that it is not ready for the elections yet, the war has helped strengthen Zelenskyy's rating, the media monopoly does not allow the opposition to reach out to society, and the new elections will not include the "pro-Russian" party, the patriotic "Batkivshchyna" and "Holos", as well as majority MPs from financially oriented groups such as "Za Maybutnye" and "Dovira".

The public also has fears related to the war, a sense of insecurity in the elections, and a misunderstanding that the war as it is now can last for years and decades. The authorities have long reassured society that the war will end "in 2-3 weeks," "in 2-3 months," "by the end of the year," and the philosophy of many people is not aimed at long-term planning, so it is difficult to believe and realize that the war could last for another 15 years (which is the weighted average forecast based on biological and mathematical analysis).

Even a bunch of "civic activists" who used to act as observers and receive large grants from embassies and foundations have joined the counter-argument against the upcoming elections, and now have issued a statement by "100 organizations" against the elections during the war.

So who is in favor of elections? So far, voices about the need to hold elections are beginning to be heard more prominently among Western allies. First, it was a statement by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,

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Tony Cox. Later, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham said during a press conference in Kyiv: "Next year, Ukraine is going to have elections... I want to see free and fair elections in this country, even during an attack on it."

But Lindsey Graham is a Republican senator, which allowed "civic activists" to launch a campaign against his statements, trying to connect him to Trump, then to Russia, and declare the very idea of elections almost a "Russian provocation."

But this will not make the problem go away. Next year's elections may be skipped by the authorities, but there will be more disadvantages. After all, this will give a reason to question the democracy and legitimacy of the authorities within the country. Obviously, the authorities do not care much about this. Things could get worse in relations with allies. After all, each of

the Western countries has political opposition. And among the opposition, the commitment to Ukraine may not be as strong as it is now consensual among Western governments. And the loss of electoral legitimacy could be a catastrophic argument. Catastrophic for us, for Ukraine, because we depend on Western military and financial assistance to the maximum extent possible.

Therefore, we should not debate whether elections are necessary or not during the war, but think about how to hold them in these conditions. Under the current electoral law, such elections would be unfair and unjust. With the impossibility of voting for front-line soldiers, millions of Ukrainian citizens who are abroad, with the danger to their lives from shelling by Russian fascists. For lack of space in this article, I will not be able to descri-

be all the necessary changes that should be made to the legislation, but I will definitely do so in one of the next ones.

There is a danger that, not because of their own desire, and not because of pressure from Ukrainian society, but because of pressure from the West, the Ukrainian authorities will agree to hold elections, but they will hold them under unreformed "peaceful" legislation. Because at the moment, neither the government, nor "civic activists" nor the opposition are preparing and promoting such changes. In this case, holding elections would rather discredit the electoral process.

Democracy should learn. Democracy should be defended. In the confrontation with fascist Russia, Ukraine must not lose its democracy. And it will not.

THE ARMY OF DRONES AS A FORMULA FOR VICTORY IN THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR

Inna Mikhno

Cybersecurity, IT intelligence, and reconnaissance drones are the daily reality of the Ukrainian fight against Russian invaders. The war in Ukraine has already been labeled a war of drones and artillery. After the full-scale invasion of Russia, the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine (MinCyfra) radically changed its focus, concentrating 80% of its efforts on the development of military-tech. The Ministry is actively engaged in the IT Army project to ensure security in cyberspace, satellite communications, and the Drone Army. In the near future, the Ministry plans to scale up the production of attack UAVs and robotic technologies.

"Hromada has prepared a summary of a public interview with Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister for Innovation, Education, Science and Technology – Minister of Digital Transformation, about the main goals and activities of the Ministry of Digital Transformation for 2024 during the Ukrainian media forum "Editorial Board. Summit".

The Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine managed to impress the audience with interesting announcements and launches of innovative projects: 5G mobile network, strengthening of electronic warfare (EW), cyber defense in cooperation with Google and Amazon, digitalization of education, etc.

Improving mobile communications

Next year, the company plans to test launch a 5G wireless mobile network in Ukraine, which will increase Internet speed by 10-20 times. The company also plans to improve the existing 4G Internet network.

"A lot of equipment was relocated during the full-scale war, certain territories were reinforced, which is why the connection in some regions has deteriorated over the past year. The situation is changing," Fedorov added.

In particular, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a plan for the development of 5G technology in Ukraine back in the pandemic year of 2020. In addition, the Parliament is currently considering draft of law N°9463, which will allow the introduction of national 4G roaming. This solution will allow Ukrainians



to use the Internet from their smartphones even if their operator's coverage is not available.

In general, according to the Ministry of Digital Transformation, Russia has destroyed a quarter of Internet networks and damaged or destroyed more than 4,000 base stations of mobile operators. To resolve this situation, the Ministry of Digital Transformation managed to bring a large number of Starlink satellites – 42,000 – and the entire Ukrainian frontline is now supported by this satellite connection.

Cyber defense and IT army

Russia is constantly conducting cyber attacks. However, there has not been a single leak of sensitive information during the entire period of the full-scale war. The Ministry of Digital Transformation managed to achieve this security of the database and registers through a number of measures.

In particular, in 2021, the Ministry of Digital Transformation held a Bug-Bounty competition to find vulnerabilities in the Diia mobile application for digitized documents. And it continues to conduct training "attacks" on all its systems in the future. It is a fairly common global practice to hire "white" hacker companies to hack certain systems to test the security of computer systems. The Ministry of Digital Transformation implemented this project for \$1 million jointly with the USAID Cybersecurity for Ukraine's Critical Infrastructure Program.

"The U.S. government is brilliant in its doctrines, they started investing in this from the very beginning and were not mistaken. At the same time, we transferred the most important registries to the cloud storage so that in case of damage to the physical infrastructure, everything would continue to work. Now we can see the result. In the first week, a rocket hit the backup data center and it was destroyed. Google, Amazon, and Microsoft helped with the transfer of data to the cloud by providing experts. And when they saw that it worked, they provided grant support for the use of their services. Microsoft allocated \$100 million, Amazon – \$75 million," Fedorov shared his achievements in cybersecurity.

In addition, the Ministry of Digital Transformation has developed rules for the functioning of registries, and all information systems have been connected to a single Security Operation Center.

Also, Ukraine has an IT Army project, a community of Ukrainian IT specialists created at the end of February 2022 to neutralize the enemy in the information space. Its members are constantly storming Russian cyberspace. These are systemic attacks that help to "get" a lot of information from their registers, which can be used for combined attacks by Ukrainian soldiers.

The world's first "Army of Drones"

The goal for 2024 is to provide all

defense forces with a sufficient number of UAVs, which are currently in short supply, and the entire country is collecting donations for the purchase of drones every day. Thus, by the end of December, production should increase 120-140 times.

Localization of production has now begun: UAVs are assembled by domestic companies, but components are imported. In total, there are more than 200 companies on the market, and more than 80 of them (last summer there were only seven) produce more than 100 drones per month.

At the end of September, more than 1,700 drones from the Army of Drones were sent to the front. Among them are Ukrainian-made drones and foreign drones used by NATO countries.

"The Army of Drones is a project that involves the systematic purchase of drones, their repair, and training of professional UAV operators. United24 has funded the purchase of 3,864 drone systems for the Army of Drones for more than UAH 4.3 billion, and 3,000 soldiers have already been trained to fly drones. There are plans to train another 10 thousand pilots.

Zelenskyy also announced that Ukraine is creating the world's first fleet of naval drones, with mass production of the corresponding kamikaze drones already underway.

Counteracting the UAVs

The Ministry of Digital Transformation plans to introduce a "REB Army." Russia is stepping up its electronic warfare, so Ukrainian experts are already working on technologies that will help overcome Russian radio jamming devices. And, as the Minister noted, scaling up the production of UAVs without countermeasures and our own electronic warfare will not work.

Work is also underway to open the market for ammunition for UAVs. The first Ukrainian companies producing ammunition have already received the relevant licenses. It is planned that Ukrainian companies will produce them, as well as drones. And in the coming weeks, Ukraine will receive 10,000 rounds of ammunition and 10,000 FPV drones.

The country is also implementing Sub SP Defense technology, which will help digitalize logistics in the first quarter of 2024. This will allow real-time monitoring of all deliveries.

80% of the time is war, then education and Diia, – Fedorov

In this war, the development of digital public services is equally important, as they should help keep the country's economy and development



on par with other countries. From this perspective, the Ministry of Digital Transformation plans to transform public administration through technology and gamification of processes.

Thus, in 2019, the Ministry of Digital Transformation launched the Diia mobile application and web portal, which provides a number of online government services. The project proved so successful that five countries from Europe, Asia, and Africa have already purchased the concept of the Ukrainian product.

The new stage of Diia's development is the launch of the test product Diia.Office. The product is targeted at civil servants, who will now have a separate profile in Diia with extensive features. For example, they can propose a survey or idea within the ministry, or award a colleague.

According to Fedorov, a civil servant will be able to take time off, vacation, or sick leave in just a few clicks. Moreover, the product will optimize 10-20% of processes, allowing ministries to save time and money and invest in development.

All processes in Diia.Office will be public. Any Ukrainian will be able to monitor the work of ministries in real time, track the effectiveness of goals and how much money is spent on them.

School of "Dreams"

The Ministry of Digital Transformation is also rebooting the education system. The pilot project is the launch of the innovative digital educational project Mriya.

"Mriya is a digital product that will analyze educational standards and

the educational process of children using artificial intelligence. It also includes electronic diaries, communication feedback, counseling for parents, and the development of students' abilities. For example, if a child receives a high score in math within four months, he or she may be offered to participate in an Olympiad or a grant.

"There is no similar product in the world at the state level, we have analyzed it. South Korea is starting to generate a similar one. We plan to launch this project for the first ten schools at the end of the year. And we have zero funds from the state for its implementation. Donors help us," Fedorov summarized.

Overall, by the end of 2024, the project should cover the entire school network of Ukraine.

War without borders

Equally important is the security of Ukraine's borders in general, and living next door to an aggressor country encourages us to work on their protection. How do the Ukrainian authorities see it? In the development of satellite reconnaissance, the operation of drones in the enemy's deep rear, open-source OSINT and cyber intelligence. And also in scaling up the development of attack and reconnaissance drones.

"Drones are the formula for victory in this war. Training of the military is the foundation. We need to learn NATO standards and develop robotic technologies. All this will allow us to see better, react faster and destroy the enemy with high conversion," Fedorov summarized.

RETURN TO OFFLINE EDUCATION: HOW DO SCHOOLS WORK DURING THE WAR?

Karyna Nikitishyna

On October 1, Ukraine celebrates Teacher's Day, a day to honor those who dedicate their lives to educating and training the future generation of our country. Today, this holiday has taken on a special significance as the educational process continues despite the hostilities, and about 10,500 secondary schools have started the school year in a full-time format. However, almost 2,500 schools will continue to teach children remotely. One of the most important criteria for the transition from distance and blended learning to full-time education is the availability of an equipped shelter that will allow you to safely stay on the territory of the educational institution. To mark Teacher's Day, Hromada decided to find out how Ukrainian schools are dealing with the challenges posed by the war. Olena Ilyushyna, director of the Technical Lyceum of the Shevchenkovskyi district of Kyiv and a volunteer of the charitable organization TIKO FUND, told us about the unique experience of her lyceum.

How many students came to the lyceum this year

Last year, many children left Ukraine, but almost all of them returned to Ukraine. In total, 21 students from grades 5 to 11 stayed abroad. There are only 8 children who stayed there for family education. In general, these are graduating classes that also plan to return to Ukraine to enter our universities. This academic year, they will again take the NMT (National Multisubject Test) instead of the usual EIT. We have high hopes that all of these children will indeed return to continue their studies in their home country. Speaking specifically about our lyceum, the number of students has not decreased because of the war, but, on the contrary, there is a tendency that the number of children is increasing every year. For example, last year we had 390 students, and this year we have 548. We also had 5 teachers who went abroad, they were residents of Irpin and Bucha. They lost their homes and were evacuated, but continued to work remotely. This year, there were 3 teachers who probably will not return, and we had to dismiss them. But we



have no problems with staff.

Ensuring security during air raids

Even before the full-scale invasion, we paid a lot of attention to patriotic education. In April of each year, we held a civil defense week where we invited medical services, the State Emergency Service, police, etc. It was, first of all, career guidance for high school students, for example, for those who want to go to college or technical school after the 9th grade. Secondly, it was a kind of show so that students knew how to act in different situations. Back then, we used to turn on the siren so that the children knew which side of the building and which classrooms they should go down to the shelter. So we have no problems with sirens, but we do have problems with the mental state of children and some teachers: there are people who are very worried. We know who exactly feels this way, so we keep everything under control. We also always make sure that the first aid kit is with us and that the medicines in it have normal expiration dates, so that there is everything to provide first aid if necessary. Both students and teachers know what to do. When everyone around you behaves calmly, it calms the children down a bit, so they can go down to the shelter without panic. They don't start packing their backpacks abruptly, but know that a ready-made bag should already be near them.

Our shelter is a bit small – we are currently completing the exhaust system. But we try to do everything we can to distract the children from their anxiety: we have a vocal teacher, a club leader who walks around with an accordion; kids build something out of construction sets, most often rockets and airplanes; some write poetry, do math, physics. Teachers offer their help, explain something if someone in the class did not understand, try to distract the children that we are not in class now, we do not give grades, you can ask anything you want. We also bought playing cards for the children, with text written in Ukrainian on one side and English, Spanish or Italian on the other. I hope that this atmosphere will continue to exist here, because we are located in the central area of the city – something flies overhead every time. However, there is one big problem. There are parents who fully understand that we have no right to let their children leave the shelter during the alert. But there are also parents who, for some reason, want to take them away during the alert. We always suggest that if you have already come to the lyceum, please go to the shelter. But there are people who just grab their children by the hands and run away.

How the lyceum worked last year

From the beginning of the war until the end of May 2022, we worked remotely. I was the only one from the administration in the lyceum building, and then I was joined by several watchmen. There were also 85 other people living in the lyceum, along with their cats, dogs, parrots, etc. These were residents of the surrounding houses whom we took into our shelter. I carried breakfast, lunch, and dinner downstairs because at first they were afraid to even go up to the first floor, and later they all left for western Ukraine. Last school year, we worked 2 for 2: while 6th and 7th graders went to classes at the lyceum for 2 weeks, the older classes worked remotely at home. The 5th graders, since they are young children, went to the lyceum every day. This year, absolutely everyone came to face-to-face classes. I try to do everything to make teachers and children feel comfortable in the lyceum. But, for example, there are not enough computers and tablets for all children. The tablets are in the

computer science classroom and can be used, but unfortunately, we cannot give them to children to take home for the same distance learning, because we do not have enough.

This fall, the electricity will definitely be cut off again. We bought lanterns, and we also received lanterns from abroad that work for 8 hours, but they need to be charged from something. How do you charge all this when there is no electricity? The city gave us one generator and fuel for it, but last year there was not enough fuel, so I bought additional fuel myself. I bought a second generator, because I realized that one could not provide energy for the entire lyceum. We bought more fuel and firewood, created a separate corner where the tandoor now stands. When there was no electricity, the cooks used to cook for the children in it. We plan to buy more, because one is not enough for the number of people who study and work at the lyceum. Also, we almost always had water and a kettle working so that the children could drink hot tea, especially in winter. However, once it happened that we had no water, but there was snow. We collected it in buckets, it melted, and we were able to boil water, and there is even a video of how we did it. We try to teach children that there is a way out of every situation.

The role of various activities in maintaining morale

We have a full-day lyceum: children stay with us until 6 PM, sometimes until 8 PM. That's why the competition is so big, because children are always busy in clubs. We have a professional

recording studio, a vocal room made in the form of an American garage. We try to equip each classroom so that children are interested and happy to go there, and have a homely atmosphere. We hold various events almost every day. For example, on September 29, we had a small concert dedicated to Teacher's Day, and on October 2, we are planning a concert dedicated to the Day of the Defender of Ukraine. During breaks, we often have fairs, and the children are happy to come to them. All these things distract them from their worries and make going to school more joyful. I talked to the leaders of the clubs and asked them if we organize too many events, because the students have both lessons and clubs, but the children themselves are only thinking about the fact that soon everyone will gather in the assembly hall.

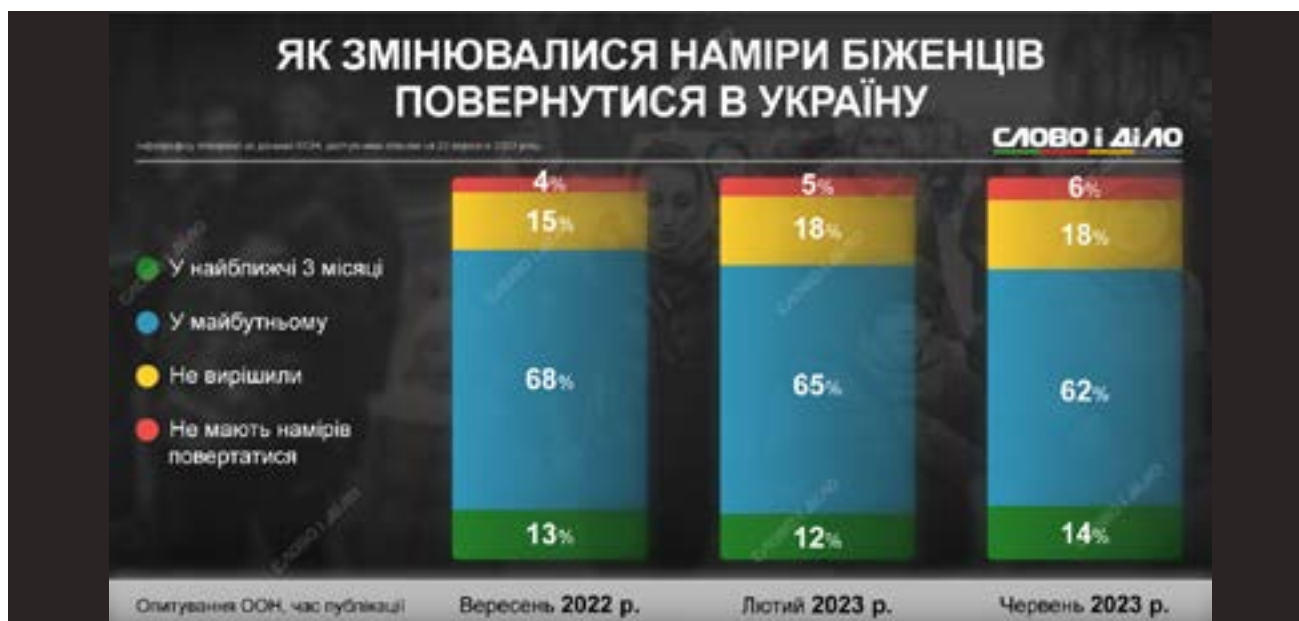
I am a member of the TIKO FUND charity foundation, but only at the end of last year did the children and parents find out about it, before that I was working "underground". And I am so pleased to see that the children fully understand everything and are happy to help. We send things to the guys at the front line, and along with the clothes we send beaded bracelets made by children, various drawings, angels, and many other things. The soldiers cry when they receive these gifts, they say that we are just incredible, they have everything covered with these drawings. I am grateful to the children for what they do. It would be wrong not to show them all this.

How do children feel about the

topic of war?

Unfortunately, we have already buried two graduates of the lyceum. At every event, we have their photos: thanks to them, we can wake up every morning and study because they gave their lives for us. They were young guys, one of them had three children – he had every right not to go to war. I feel good when children come up and ask me questions: 'Elena, please find time to tell us about Denis, tell us about Vlad. We placed their photos on the wall of memory on Mykhailivska Square. On September 1, we held a campaign called "September 1 with our heroes". We went to the wall of memory with the flag of the Technical Lyceum, Ukraine, candles and bouquets. There were children who came there for the first time.

My sister now works as a rehabilitation therapist in a hospital where guys without limbs are treated. She conducts rehabilitation before they are fitted with prostheses so that they can continue to live normally. We bought a car for them, everything is made for a person with prostheses to drive, and there is enough space for several people in wheelchairs. We have just a little bit left to make this dream come true, and parents and students are helping us with this. For example, when parents pick up their children, they may drown at the entrance to the lyceum. Even children who have left try to help. Any hryvnia, even 50 kopyyka helps. This is how people remember that our boys and girls are standing up for us at the front.



UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses



According to the General Staff, total enemy combat losses from February 24, 2022 to September 30, 2023 are approximately as follows:

personnel – about 278,130 individuals were eliminated,
tanks – 4,691 units,
armored personnel carriers – 8,984 units,
artillery systems – 6,447 units,
MLRS – 796 units,
air defense systems – 537 units,
aircraft – 315 units,
helicopters – 316 units,
operational and tactical level UAVs – 5,006 units,
cruise missiles – 1,529 units,
warships and boats – 20 units,
submarines – 1 unit,
motor vehicles and tankers – 8,854 units,
special equipment – 932 units.

Military aid for Ukraine



The **US** will provide Ukraine with \$128 million in new security assistance, as well as \$197 million in weapons and equipment.

It also includes cluster ammunition "that will further enhance Ukraine's ability to continue its counteroffensive against Russian forces."

In particular, the new aid package includes:

- AIM-9M missiles for air defense systems;
- AN/TWQ-1 Avenger self-propelled air defense systems;
- .50-caliber machine guns to combat drones;
- Additional ammunition for HIMARS;
- Artillery shells of 105 mm caliber;
- 155 mm artillery shells, including DPICM (cluster);
- Javelin and AT-4 ATGMs;
- TOW ATGMs;
- More than 3 million rounds of ammunition;
- 59 light tactical vehicles;
- Explosive munitions for clearing obstacles;
- Spare parts, maintenance and other field equipment.

In addition, more than ten Abrams tanks promised by the United States will soon arrive in Ukraine.

In early September, **Germany** handed over another military aid package to Ukraine, which includes 20 Marder infantry fighting vehicles along with ammunition. The equipment was taken from Bundeswehr warehouses and industrial stocks.

The aid package also includes:

- 3,000 155 mm caliber shells;
- materials for the disposal of ammunition
- one Satcom video surveillance system;
- 20 RQ-35 Heidrun reconnaissance drones;
- two mobile antenna-mast systems;
- 10 drone detection systems;
- 1.5 million rounds of ammunition for firearms.

Later, the German Ministry of Defense announced a €400 million package of military assistance to Ukraine. In particular, Berlin transferred to the Armed Forces of Ukraine

- 17 SatCom satellite communication terminals.
- 1 antenna amplifier;
- 4 HX81 tractors and 4 trailers;
- 12 Mercedes-Benz Zetros trucks;
- WISENT spare parts.

Denmark intends to transfer 45 more tanks to Ukraine – 30 Leopard 1 tanks, and 15 modernized Soviet T-72 tanks.

Earlier, Danish Prime Minister Matt Frederiksen announced that her country would provide Ukraine with 19 F-16 aircraft.

In addition, Denmark will increase development assistance to Ukraine in 2024.

The **UK** government supplied Ukraine with a batch of Malloy T400 heavy

drones. The exact number of drones transferred is not specified. However, it is known that drones of this type can lift loads weighing up to 180 kilograms and have a range of 70 kilometers.

As a reminder, it was recently reported that the UK would provide Ukraine with equipment to protect ports and sea lanes.

In addition, the country's authorities have allocated more than \$14 million to help Ukrainian refugees. The UK will also supply Ukraine with additional air defense systems.

South Korea will provide the Armed Forces of Ukraine with tanks for demining and breaking through enemy defense lines. It is noted that Ukraine will receive two K600 Rhinoceros tanks. These vehicles are capable of to destroy mines in the rear and to create a passage in the minefield on the front line.

The **Swedish** Ministry of Defense has handed over to the Armed Forces of Ukraine all the promised Stridsvagn 122 tanks – this model is an analog of the German Leopard 2A5.

It is noted that the Armed Forces received 10 tanks of this type. In addition, the crews that were trained on the Stridsvagn 122 in Sweden have returned to Ukraine.

The ban on grain imports



Ukraine has filed lawsuits with the World Trade Organization against Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia over their unilateral ban on imports of Ukrainian agricultural products.

It is noted that the lawsuits demanding consultations filed in accordance with the Understanding on Rules and Procedures for the Settlement of Disputes of the WTO Agreement.

"It is important for us to prove that individual member states cannot ban imports of Ukrainian goods. That is why we are filing lawsuits against them in the WTO. At the same time, we hope that these countries will lift their restrictions and we will not have

to settle the matter in courts for a long time," said Yulia Sviridenko, head of the Ministry of Economy.

The ministry added that Ukraine sees the ban as a violation of its international obligations by the three EU countries.

"Also, the Ukrainian side believes that unilateral actions of the EU member states in the field of trade are unacceptable and all member states of the bloc should coordinate and coordinate trade policy, as it is within the exclusive competence of the EU," the Ministry of Economy summarized.

Ukraine will jointly produce modern weapons, including air defense, with the United States – Zelenskyy



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he had a number of significant results from his visit to the United States, including an agreement to jointly manufacture weapons, including air defense systems.

The main points from the President's address:

- "It was a very important visit to Washington, very significant results. I met with President Biden and his team. There is a new defense package: Air defense, artillery, shells, engineering equipment. We have a long-term agreement that we will work together to ensure that Ukraine produces the necessary weapons together with America.

- I thank the Congress – both parties, both chambers. Today, I started my day in the American capital with the Congress – very frank, detailed conversations. I felt trust – trust that is always the basis of unity.

- We also had meetings at the Pentagon today – important conversations about defense support. We continue to work to strengthen Ukraine.

- We also discussed the strengthen-

ing of our state's institutions to clear Ukraine of any hostile and corrupt influences. There is a valuable decision to return to Ukraine the artifacts stolen by the occupiers – items from the Scythian period.

- The First Lady had her own important events today. She met with the First Lady of America, Jill Biden. And Georgetown University – meeting with students, expanding our cultural diplomacy.

Biden appoints US special envoy for Ukraine's economic recovery



US President Joe Biden has appointed a special representative for Ukraine's economic recovery.

The American leader announced this on September 14, as quoted by the White House press service.

The position was taken by former Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, who has "deep family ties to Ukraine."

"Working closely with the government of Ukraine, our allies and partners, international financial institutions, and the private sector, she will lead the United States' efforts to rebuild the Ukrainian economy," the statement said.

Biden noted that Pritzker, among other things, should mobilize public and private investment, organize work to open export markets and businesses, and help the Ukrainian government implement the reforms necessary to strengthen the country's economy.

"As we take the next step to help Ukraine build a stronger future, we remain firmly committed to helping it secure its freedom today.

"We remain firmly committed to helping Ukraine secure its freedom today. The United States remains ready to stand by them for as long as it takes," Biden concluded.

Musk hands over control of Starlink's part in Ukraine to Pentagon



Walter Isaacson, the biographer of the American billionaire Elon Musk, said that "a certain amount of equipment and services" of the Starlink satellite network has been taken over by the Pentagon.

He said this in an interview with The Washington Post.

He noted that Musk chose to disassociate himself from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, fearing that the use of his SpaceX technology could lead to a nuclear war.

"I created Starlink so that people could relax, watch a movie Netflix, play video games. I wasn't going to create something that could lead to nuclear war," Isaacson quoted Musk as saying.

According to the biographer, Musk no longer controls the geofences and terms of use of Starlink.

Isaacson also added that the entrepreneur even created Starshield, a military version of Starlink.

"I think this is his way of saying that he needs to get out of the way, because even he thinks he shouldn't have so much power – it's better for the US government to make decisions about the capabilities of the US military to use Starlink," the biographer said.

In the court in the Hague hearings on the Ukraine's lawsuit against Russia

On September 18, the International Court of Justice in The Hague began hearings in the case of Ukraine against Russia on charges of violating the Convention on the Prohibition of Genocide.



According to the court's website, representatives of Russia will testify on September 18 and 25, and representatives of Ukraine on September 19 and 26.

Ukraine filed a lawsuit with the UN court a few days after the start of the full large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. The lawsuit states that Russia is in violation of international law by claiming that the invasion is justified by "preventing genocide" in eastern Ukraine.

Russia wants the case dismissed and denies the ICJ's jurisdiction. Ukraine has already overcome one hurdle: last March, the court issued a preliminary ruling ordering Russia to immediately cease military operations.

The court will also hear the views of 32 other states that have joined Ukraine's lawsuit.

The US has expanded sanctions against Russia: the list were included dozens of individuals and legal entities



The US government has approved a new package of sanctions against the Russian Federation.

The restrictions include 24 individuals and dozens of legal entities associated with the Putin regime.

Among other things, the sanctions were imposed on three armored vehicle repair plants, Rosavtodor, the Ulyanovsk Cartridge Plant, and the companies AvtoVAZ, Moskvich, Transmashholding, and Saturn.

In addition to Russian companies, the list also includes legal entities from Turkey, Belgium, the UAE, and Slovenia. In addition, the US imposed sanctions on two Panamanian-flagged tankers.

The UK has recognized the Wagner PMC as a terrorist organization



The UK Ministry of Home Affairs has added Wagner PMC to the list of terrorist organizations.

It is noted that from now on, this organization is considered banned in the United Kingdom.

"Belonging to the Wagner Group in the UK will be considered a criminal offense with a potential prison sentence of up to 14 years, which may be imposed together with or instead of a fine," the statement said.

In addition, persons who provide assistance to the PMC and approve its activities will be subject to criminal prosecution.

In February, the Verkhovna Rada recognized the Wagner PMC as an international criminal organization.

Ukraine to receive DNA tests from the Netherlands to identify children abducted by Russia

The Netherlands will provide Ukraine with kits for rapid DNA tests so that children abducted by Russia can be identified and returned to their families as soon as possible.

This is stated in a statement by the



government of the Netherlands.

These tests will allow DNA samples to be taken from children who have been returned from Russia. Samples entered into a special DNA database in Ukraine will allow faster to compare the data of children with the data of their family members.

Ukrainian pilots complete familiarization training on Swedish Gripen fighters



The Ukrainian pilots successfully completed an introductory training on Swedish Gripen fighters.

The training included test flights both in the aircraft and on a simulator, and even briefings for ground personnel.

"The familiarization flights have been completed, and according to the report I received from the Armed Forces, the training went well," said the Swedish defense minister.

Which European countries does Ukraine trade with the most

Relations between Ukraine and Poland have been tense for several months now due to the ban on Ukrainian grain imports. Poland wants



to extend the embargo beyond September 15 and is ready to do so unilaterally, even without a decision from the European Commission. In response, Ukraine is appealing to the World Trade Organization arbitration. An escalation in relations with our western neighbor is not desirable at all: Poland is one of Ukraine's closest allies during the war and a major European trading partner, with exports and imports already exceeding \$3 billion this year.

Among European countries, Poland has the largest export and import volumes.

Romania ranks second among the countries for exports with \$2.19 billion, and Germany is in third place with \$1.08 billion. In addition, Ukrainian goods were sold to Spain for a billion dollars this year.

Exports to Italy, the Netherlands, and Hungary amounted to about \$0.8 billion. The second largest donor of aid to Ukraine, the United Kingdom, exported goods worth \$193.1 million.

In addition to Poland, Ukraine imported the most goods from Germany this year – \$2.75 billion worth of goods, and Bulgaria – \$1.36 billion. The volume of imports of goods from Italy, France, Hungary and Slovakia.

From Romania, which ranks second in terms of exports, Ukraine imported goods worth \$0.9 billion.

The smallest trade volumes are between Ukraine and San Marino: the volume of export this year amounted to \$0.1 million, and imports – \$1.2 million.

Interestingly, there is also trade between Ukraine and Belarus, which is actively helping Russia during the full-scale war. This year, Ukraine's exports to Belarus amounted to \$0.2 million, while imports amounted to \$13.6 million.

Germany, which this year is among the leaders in terms of trade with Ukraine, was previously among the top 3 exporters and importers. But Romania and Bulgaria became leaders only last year.

At the same time, Ukraine's trade with Italy decreased. In 2017-2021, the country was one of the top three exporters, but this year it dropped to 5th place.

Ukraine joined the IAEA Board of Governors



Ukraine has been elected to the IAEA Board of Governors, one of the agency's two governing bodies.

Ukraine will be a member of the Board of Governors until 2025. Zelenskyy noted that Ukraine will make every effort to strengthen the role of the IAEA and strengthen nuclear safety.

It is worth noting that the Board of Governors is one of the two decision-making bodies of the IAEA along with the annual General Conference of the IAEA Member States. The Board of Governors includes representatives of 35 countries.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy told about the newly created Alliance of Defense Industries

The Alliance of Defense Industries was established at the first International Defense Industries Forum. Manufacturers of weapons and military equipment from around the world can join its basic declaration.

This was announced by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, speaking at the forum on September 29, the press service of the Presidential Administration reports.

"Now, for decades to come, we are determining what the most powerful defense industry complexes will be, what their priorities will be, and what will be the standard of defense. This is being determined in Ukraine. At the first International Defense Industries Forum, we created the Alliance of Defense Industries. Manufacturers of weapons and military equipment from all over the world can join its basic declaration and demonstrate that they are ready to build the arsenal of the free world together with Ukraine," Zelenskyy said.

The Head of State emphasized that the Ukrainian nation is strong and courageous.



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THE FIRST DEFENSE INDUSTRIES FORUM STARTED IN UKRAINE / DETAILS OF THE EVENT

On September 29, more than 250 companies took part in the Defense Industries Forum in Kyiv, including dozens of Ukrainian companies.

As of the first day, 38 companies have already joined. They represent 19 countries. These are the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Canada, Bulgaria, Australia, Belgium, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, as well as the Czech Republic, North Macedonia, Slovakia, Spain, Croatia and Finland. More companies will join.

Ukrainian manufacturers signed 20 documents with partner companies at the Forum. These are agreements and memorandums. Each of these documents later becomes a new production or a strengthening of existing cooperation.

These are agreements on joint production, technology exchange, and the supply of components. Production of powders, production of ammunition. This is training personnel for our defense industry. Also, Ukrainian production of drones, land and sea autonomous systems is developing.

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ELON MUSK'S DEMONS?

HOW THE TECH MOGUL'S SCANDALOUS STATEMENTS ABOUT THE SHUTDOWN OF STARLINK DURING THE MILITARY OPERATION IN CRIMEA WILL AFFECT THE US ELECTIONS

Anton Shramenko

Recently, military events in Ukraine have been a kind of catalyst for processes in the United States. The September scandal with Musk, when he stated that "the US Congress did not declare war on Russia," has already caused a storm of outrage among the US political establishment, hatred in Ukrainian social media, and support and approval from Vladimir Putin. Congresswoman Elizabeth Warren said that the case of the satellite Internet network shutdown ordered by Musk needs to be investigated to make sure "we have adequate tools to ensure that foreign policy is conducted by the government, not by one billionaire."

Hromada spoke with Ukrainian political scientist Olesya Yakhno, who believes that there is no need to rush to demonize Musk, and that the tragic precedent of Starlink shutdown for Ukraine may have important and even positive consequences for the security situation in the United States. Let's take a closer look.

Olesya Yakhno:

"First of all, in the situation with the Starlink shutdown, I would distinguish between Elon Musk's actions and his statements. Let's talk about the statements first. The way he justified the shutdown of the Internet during a military operation is really political ignorance. This is a gross mistake that Russia immediately used to undermine public opinion in the United States about helping Ukraine in the war. The fact that Putin publicly supported Musk against the backdrop of statements about the launch of an investigation into this incident (as in: "you see, not everyone in America supports pumping Ukraine with weapons") confirms that Russia is able to skillfully use famous personalities to play its game. And Musk, when he makes such careless statements, unknowingly gives Russia the tools to stir up internal conflicts in American society.

But I believe that this "Musk precedent" is very important for the United States, especially on the eve of the presidential election. We know that



Russia is looking for any "gaps" in the security and information field of Western governments through which it can infiltrate and influence public opinion, and even directly influence political and electoral processes. Americans saw how well the aggressor country succeeds in such operations during the 2016 presidential election. And now, for example, it has been revealed that Russia is creating clone accounts of US government agencies and fake pages of prominent news sources such as the Washington Post on social media, and using them to inject its propaganda narratives into the information space. Russia is even more skillful at using politically ignorant celebrities and "useful idiots" to promote its agenda and conduct other operations. Moreover, these individuals themselves do not even realize that they have become a tool in the hands of the enemy.

Therefore, the strong reaction to Musk's statements not only in American society but also in the US political establishment, the Pentagon's statements, and the launch of an investigation into the Starlink outage allows me to make an optimistic forecast about further developments. I would like to think that the US government has realized its mistakes that led to this terrible incident, and that such "arbitrariness" on the part of big business will not happen again in the future.

And now we come to Musk's actions and why I am in no hurry to demonize them. I believe that the reason for such

actions is not Elon's deliberate playing along with Russia, but the blurring of the US government's military position.

If we look at the beginning of the full-scale invasion and the topic of Crimea, very often in statements and interviews of Western politicians, they emphasized the sacredness of Crimea for Putin, the high degree of threat of using nuclear weapons in the event of military action on the territory of Crimea and the need to resolve the issue of Crimea purely diplomatically, not militarily. Therefore, it seems to me that if, at the time of this incident, the US government had announced a clear position on the permissibility of military action on the peninsula, for example, that the United States was ready to provide Ukraine with everything it needed to fight back in the Crimean direction, Elon Musk would not have done so.

Another important aspect is that before this precedent, no one had realized that big business and individual non-governmental personalities could have such a direct impact on the course of hostilities in Ukraine. And I really liked the Pentagon's reaction, where they said that in the future, Musk should make all decisions regarding the war with them. This is a very important step, especially on the eve of the US presidential election. I hope that the government is already developing a model of interaction between businesses and the US authorities in terms of security risks. This is to prevent similar precedents from

arising again that would directly affect the course of the war or internal processes in the United States. This should be a model for business interaction with the US government in terms of technology security to further reduce the number of loopholes through which Russia or other third parties can influence public opinion or interfere in elections. Such a model would be a good safeguard against rebellions and political crises. There is a certain set of topics where the state should develop a very clear position. And the sooner such a model is developed, the clearer the acceptable and unacceptable boundaries are outlined, and all this is communicated to big business owners, the sooner it will prevent the country from invol-

ving individuals like Musk in US military and internal conflicts.

And it's good that the Musk scandal has broken out now. Otherwise, during the election period, it would have been overgrown with election rhetoric and would have directly affected the positions of politicians in the race. I believe that if the U.S. government now takes advantage of this precedent and draws conclusions from it, develops a clear model of interaction with large businesses and individuals, the risk to the American system will be significantly reduced.

For Ukraine, the positive aspect of the Musk scandal is that it happened before we had F-16 fighters. Because, as we can see, in the case of the Starlink shutdown, business and perso-

nalities can influence the course of military operations in a rather unexpected way. That is, if a clear model of "government-business in security and strategic issues" is developed, where there are no clear positions of the Pentagon, businessmen will not be able to act at their own discretion and influence the war. If they consult with the Pentagon, I think they will also not be able to arbitrarily interpret the government's position that, for example, "the United States has not declared war on Russia." And where there are sensitive areas of security, I think the business will be interested in coordinating this in terms of its reputation, and thus not playing along with the common enemy of the United States and Ukraine."



SECOND INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY "UKRAINIANS IN THE WORLD..."

Dear friends!

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, the **SECOND INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY "UKRAINIANS IN THE WORLD: UNITED BY LOVE FOR UKRAINE – FOR ITS VICTORY AND RESTORATION"**.

Organizers: The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO) and the International Institute for Education, Culture and Diaspora Relations of Lviv Polytechnic National University (IIEC).

The mission of the Assembly is to open up Ukrainian women's activism in the world to the public, to highlight their effective role in achieving the Victory and restoring Ukraine.

The event was attended by

Ukrainian women opinion leaders from over 20 countries.

The Assembly's panelists are authoritative, professional, well-known figures from various spheres of Ukrainian life in the world and in Ukraine.

The Assembly is an integral event of the XII WFUWO Congress on the occasion of its glorious anniversary.

Today, united Ukrainian women are an important factor in Ukraine's global struggle for independence and our Victory.

For 75 years, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations has been coordinating the activities of Ukrainian women's organizations around the world, working to support Ukraine at various stages of its formation and development.

Participation in the event is

subject to prior registration and confirmation from the Organizing Committee. The number of participants is limited.

The organizers do not reimburse travel and accommodation expenses.

Registration is open until October 1, 2023.

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/tRzj6pHS3Y-WVdwzH7>

Time and venue: **October 15, 2023, Ukrainian National House in Przemyśl (5 Tadeusz Kosciuszko St., Przemyśl, Poland)**

Let's discover the power of Ukrainian women for Ukraine and the world!

If you have any questions, please contact us by e-mail:

congress@miok.lviv.ua

NINA SEMENYUK IS A REAL ESTATE BROKER IN SACRAMENTO AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

Myroslav Hrehk

Nina Semenyuk lives in Sacramento, a woman who has been buying and selling homes for a long time. Our correspondent Myroslav Hrehk interviewed Nina.

Myroslav (M.): Please tell us how long you have been in the United States.

Nina (N.): I've been here since the nineties, and soon it will be my 35th year in America.

M.: Can you tell us what you do?

N.: I sell real estate.

M.: Are you a realtor or a broker? And what is the difference between them? Because it's hard for me to understand this specificity.

H.: A realtor is someone who sells real estate under the guidance of a broker, and a broker can sell independently and have own company. I am a realtor now.

M.: How long have you been in this business?

N.: I've been working in this field since '97, and this is my 27th year.

M.: So you have a lot of experience. What is the dynamics of your work, what are your achievements, what can you tell us about it?

H.: I successfully sell and buy housing. I have thousands of satisfied clients. I help them with many real estate issues, even those who have a language barrier. I help those who have recently arrived. There are different programs for different people – for those who have a minimum down payment, and for those who have a minimum credit. So there are different programs for different clients, and I also help them choose the best one.

M.: In what territory do you do this work?

N.: I mainly focus on Sacramento and the surrounding area.

M.: Are there many Ukrainians among your clients?

N.: Yes, a lot of them. You know, there is a trend now to speak Ukrainian. Previously, many Ukrainians who came here spoke Russian. Now the trend has changed, probably because of the war, many have switched to Ukrainian.

M.: Where are your roots, where do you come from?

N.: I come from the Volyn region, from the city of Novovolynsk.

M.: What advice do you have for our



readers?

H.: We always advise people to buy their own house instead of renting. A person who has his own property or housing always benefits from it. If he pays for the house, and if he pays taxes, they get discounts for that. Over time, the cost of housing increases. There is no such time as a bad time to buy your own home, it is always profitable. Now, due to the war, there is an influx of Ukrainians. But they are not able to buy a home because they have no credit. I advise newcomers to open any credit card with the lowest limit to start building their credit history. If a person gets a job, has a minimum credit score and has been living here for 2 years, he or she can already buy some housing. So a person will always need a credit history.

M.: The loan is taken from a bank, and what is the current bank interest rate for buying a home?

H.: Now it's somewhere around 7%, it goes up or down from time to time. So two years ago, the interest rate was somewhere around 2.5-3%, which I don't remember in my entire career. When we bought a house in 1996, the interest rate was around 8 percent. But if the interest rate is 5 percent, it's okay, and it's unrealistic to expect a lower rate, for example, down to 3 percent.

M.: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

N.: I have a family – 5 daughters,

and already 18 grandchildren.

M.: So you are a rich woman, a rich mother and grandmother.

H.: We came here a long time ago, and America has become our country. But we do not forget Ukraine and support it, we help it, this is our mission.

M.: How long ago have you been in Ukraine?

N.: This year. We bought a bus in France, brought it here and handed it over to the volunteers. Now it is being used to transport humanitarian aid to the front and to the de-occupied territories. Here, in Volyn Oblast, they pack it all up and take it to the front. We also purchased another jeep for the needs of the army to transport wounded soldiers from the first line of defense. We help as much as we can.

M.: Well done, thank you for that! Now a little more about your programs you mentioned.

H.: For a first-time buyer, there is a 3% down payment program and no mortgage insurance, the bank pays for the paperwork. There is a program that provides assistance for the down payment. A person with no money at all can buy a house, although the interest rate is not so attractive. But, if you buy land, you need to give 20% and have a credit history. So, if you arrive, you go to the bank, put down \$200, and you can get a credit card.

M.: What are your statistics, how many houses have you managed to sell over the past year?

N.: I sell a lot of houses, about 40-50 on average per year. I used to sell 100 or more. It was possible 10-15 years ago. Now prices are high, and people are not buying as much as they used to. Potential real estate buyers are now a little hesitant, waiting for prices to fall. In fact, it is better to buy in the second half of the year. Prices are always higher in spring than in autumn, so it's better to buy in the fall. And it is better to sell in the spring. Prices always fall by a few percent in the second half of the year. That's what I recommend to your readers.

M.: Well, thank you for your important advice and everything you do for the victory of Ukraine! I wish you every success in your work and all the best for you! And I wish us all a speedy end to the war and victory!

H.: Thank you for your attention!

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- Інформація про пільги при купівлі першого будинку / Information about benefits when buying a first home
- Short Sale Specialist

Ніна Семенюк - Broker
Nina Semenyuk

NinaSRealEstate@gmail.com
5252 Sunrise Blvd., Suite #6
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

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ENGLISH SQUARED FOR STEM STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS + LOORA.AI

Today English Squared is probably the best solution to improve industry professional English for everyone around the world for native or none-native speakers. Bottom line, for anyone, who strive to excel in their field, English Squared will tailor online program and progress evaluation starting from as little as \$99 per month.

We asked Aaron Harford, founder of English Squared to introduce his company to anyone who could benefit from this program.

Please provide an overview of the company, who could benefit from English Squared, and what programs are available?

English Squared has started 2 years ago. After living in Ukraine for some years with my family, I realized that English for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) students and professionals was an area that had not received much attention. When a STEM student or professional builds confidence and fluency in English, it has an exponential impact on their lives, families, company, and country.

Anyone who has a STEM background and wants to improve their English for work, study, or living abroad can benefit from English Squared.

Our program offers AI augmented reading, writing, speaking, listening, & assessments, as well as private lessons with a native English speaker who also has a STEM background. Work at your own pace and schedule with our AI augmented systems, and also benefit from weekly or biweekly private classes with our teachers.

What starting prices you are offering and how many hours per week a student needs to dedicate.

To make demonstrable progress, an English STEM student should commit 3-4 hours a week. One hour for reading, one for writing, practicing with Loora, as well as an hour with your human instructor to practice and discuss STEM topics of interest to you. Prices start at \$100 per month, and you get a lot of value for your money.

What is and how Loora.ai is implemented into the educational process at English Squared? At the same time, what are the advantages of using Loora.ai?

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www.English4STEM.org
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Loora.ai is an innovative, interactive app that we provide to our students as a package. She is the most impressive AI speech interactive English tutor we have found. The most complicated and expensive part of any language course is the private human teacher. What we have done is provide AI augmentation that offers flexibility and practice, as well as value, so that when you have private lessons with a human teacher you can make the most of them.

Loora's speech to text programming really needs to be experienced. You can also compare your pronunciation with difficult words alongside hers, build vocabulary, and have open conversations about any topic of interest. Daily language practice is necessary to become proficient and meet your goals. We recommend 5 to 30 minutes of speaking and listening practice per day with Loora. One student commented that Loora is like having a diary, a friend, and an English teacher available 24 hours a day.

How much time would it take to complete a course?

In our experience, we recommend a minimum of 3 months to see demonstrable, real improvement in your English language skills. We have had some of our students for 12 months or more! You can choose from 3, 6, or 12 month packages. For what we offer, it really is the best offering available.

With regular evaluation of the progress do you provide an industry recognized certification?

We utilize Tracktest for our free initial assessment, as well as monthly detailed feedback and individualized testing to build and adapt a program specifically for you. Most importantly, you will never wonder about your English level, or what you need to work on to improve. Our certificates are used by employers, universities, and government agencies in the European Union and Canada. Upon successful completion of your English course, we provide a certificate that utilizes identification verification, online proctoring, speech, writing, along with a picture and QR code for confirmation. It is the best overall English for STEM language

learning platform available today.

To get started, we recommend you take a 5 minute, no cost assessment:

<https://app.tracktest.eu/registration?dh=englishsquared>

(Can put as Know Your English Level or English Squared Assessment)

After your test, we will receive your results! Then, head to our website and schedule an informational interview to see how we can help you achieve your English language goals for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics!

https://www.englishsquared.org/service-page/introductory-plan-ning-session?referral=service_list_widget

(Schedule Informational Session)

You can also reach out to us on Whatsapp in the US or Ukraine. Also join our LinkedIn Page for information and newsletter.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/english-squared-llc/about/?viewAsMember=true>

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ДЛЯ ДІТЕЙ

Фарбований лис

Іван Франко (адаптована версія)

Жив собі в однім лісі Лис Микита, хитрий-прехитрий. Скільки разів гонили його стрільці, цькували його хортами, ставили на нього капкани або підкидали йому отруєного м'яса, нічим не могли його dokonати. Лис Микита сміявся собі з них, обминав усякі небезпеки, ще й інших своїх товаришів остерігав.

Незвичайне щастя і його хитрість зробили його страшенно гордим.

— Що ви собі думаєте! — похвалявся він перед своїми товаришами. — Досі я ходив по селах, а завтра в білий день піду до міста і просто з базару курку вкраду.

— Ет, не говори дурниць, — умовляли його товариші.

— От побачите, — вів своє Лис і задумав завтра побігти до міста і з базару вхопити курку.

Але цим разом бідний Микита таки помилився.

Поміж коноплями та кукурудзою він безпечно заліз аж до передмістя: огородами, перескакуючи плоти та ховаючися між яриною, дійшов аж на середину міста. Але тут біда. Треба було хоч на мить вискочити на вулицю, збігати



на базар і вернутись назад. А на вулиці й на базарі крик, шум, гамір, вози скриплять, колеса гуркотять, коні гримлять копитами, свині кувічуть — одним словом, клекіт такий, якого наш Микита і в сні не бачив, і в гарячці не чув.

Позбувшись першого страху та роздивившись куди й як найкраще бігти, Лис Микита набрався відваги, розбігся й одним духом скочив через пліт на вулицю.

Знітився, скулився та ровом як чкурне просто на базар, де довгим рядом сиділи жінки, держачи в решетах та в кошиках на продаж яйця, масло, свіжі гриби, полотно, курей,

качок і інші такі гарні речі.

Але не встиг він добігти до базару, коли йому назустріч біжить Пес, з іншого боку надбігає другий, а там бачить третього. Псів уже наш Микита не одурить. Зараз пронюхали, хто він, загарчали та як кинуться до нього. Наш Микита закрутився, мов муха в окропі: що тут робити? Куди дітися? Не довго думаючи, він шмигнув у найближчі одчинені ворота, а з воріт на подвір'я.

Бачить Лис, що на подвір'ї в кутку стоїть якась діжа. От він, не довго думаючи, скік у діжку та й сховався. Щастя мав, бо ледве він щез у діжі,

коли прибїгли цілою купою Пси, гавкаючи, гарчачи, нюхаючи.

— Тут він був! Тут він був! Шукайте його! — кричали передні.

Ціла юрба кинулася по невеликому подвір'ю, по всіх закутках гребуть, нюхають, дряпають — Лиса й сліду нема.

Кілька разів підходили й до діжі. Але негарний запах, який ішов від неї, відганяв їх. Врешті, не знайшовши нічого, вони побігли геть. Лис Микита був урятований.

Урятований, але як!

У діжі, що так несподівано стала йому в пригоді, було більше як до половини синьої, густої, на олії розведеної фарби. Бачите, в тім домі жив маляр, що фарбував будинки, паркани та садові лави.

Вскочивши в цей розчин, Лис Микита в першу хвилину пірнув у нього з головою і мало не задушився, але потім, діставши задніми ногами дна бочки, став собі так, що все його тіло було затоплено в фарбі, а тільки морда, така синя, трошечки стирчала з неї. Отак він виждав, поки минула страшна небезпека.

Добре, що живий.

Майже вмираючи зі страху, бідний Лис Микита мусив сидіти в фарбі тихо аж до вечора, добре знаючи, що коли тепер, у такому вигляді,

з'явитися на вулиці, то вже не тільки Пси, а й люди кинуться за ним і не пустять його живого. Аж коли смеркло, Лис Микита прожогом вискочив із свого незвичайного купелю, перебіг вулицю і, не помічений ніким, ускочив до садка. А звідси бур'янами, через перелазу, через капусти та кукурудзи чкурнув до лісу.

Чи пізно, чи рано прокинувся він на другий день, цього вже в книгах не записано.

Але в ту хвилину зиркнув на себе — лишенько! Аж

скрикнув бідолаха. А це що таке? З переляку він кинувся тікати, але сам від себе не втечеш.

Якийсь дивний і страшний звір, синій-синій, з препоганим запахом, покритий не то лускою, не то їжаковими колючками, а хвіст у нього — не хвіст, а щось таке величезне, а важке, мов довбня, і також колюче.

Фарба олійна, вночі у теплі засохла добре, не пускає. Роби, що хочеш, брате Микито!



MY TEACHER...

Myroslav Hrehk

On the first Sunday of October, and this year it will be October 1, Ukraine will celebrate Teacher's Day (Education Workers' Day). The professional International Educators' Day was established by UNESCO in 1994. It should be reminded that World Teachers' Day is celebrated on October 5. In Ukraine, according to the Presidential Decree of September 11, 1994, the Day of Education Workers is celebrated on the first Sunday of October.

Many Ukrainian citizens who were educated when Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union as a republic remember the festive bouquets of asters and chrysanthemums that were traditionally presented to teachers on Teacher's Day with sincere gratitude. White aprons and shirts were worn at the end of the first week of October. "Teacher's Day is a holiday that stays with us forever," the government portal states.

Today in independent Ukraine, there are almost 860 thousand teachers, educators, masters of industrial training, researchers and managers. They teach and educate more than a million preschoolers, educate more than five million schoolchildren, and teach future specialties to almost three million students in the country. The war against racist Russia has made its own adjustments here as well. Thousands of educators from the east and south of the country were forced to leave their destroyed schools and homes – some abroad or in the western or central part of the country, others to the front. The number of wards has also decreased. Russia committed an international crime by abducting thousands of Ukrainian children and taking them to the territory of the occupier. For this crime, Putin himself was arrested by the International Criminal Court.

Despite this, the educational process both this year and last year started on time, as planned. Sometimes it has to be transferred online and to

special shelters, especially during air raids when the enemy attacks our cities and villages. Even in these extraordinary conditions, teachers fulfill their duties with high quality and selflessness. Honor and praise to them for this! But enough about the sad. On this day, we would like to say the most heartfelt and beautiful words to our teachers, to thank them for their hard work and care.

Here are the memories of former students and their teachers about their school years:

"There is no better and more sincere time than school. School shaped one's personality, taught one to make friends, love, sympathize, think, believe, protect and listen. Not even to listen, but to hear. This is a great merit of our teachers. At every meeting, we remember our teachers with gratitude and realize that we were lucky to have them. It is difficult to determine which of them did more for whom. That is the difficulty of teaching, that it is impossible to determine the result of their efforts. There is no gross output, as there is with manufacturers, and the grains of their labor are not material at all. These seeds are sown simultaneously – in class and during breaks, because we were always together. The sprouts were uneven – either someone had the seeds deeper and longer, waiting for more favorable times, or something else. When we meet, we always remember our mentors, and the older we get, or maybe wiser, who knows, the more gratitude we hear in those memories. It's hard for me to say which of my teachers was the best. I love them all and thank God for giving me the happiness of learning from them. And may they forgive me for causing trouble or spoiling their mood. Believe me, it was not out of malice."

"As the saying goes, the earth is founded on the righteous, and the school on tireless teachers and spiritual mentors. One can only admire the ingenuity, diligence, desire to keep up

with the times, and talent of the teaching staff."

"The years flew away like white storks, frosting my hair with gray hair. The crimson bell rang 35 times in the classroom, announcing the start of the new school year. And, nervously, I go to meet the students, and the memories of the first steps across the threshold of Pavlyshche school as a shy young girl, a student of Kirovohrad State Pedagogical Institute, come to life in my memory."

I cannot but mention here my first teacher, Oleksandra Andriivna Sherstiuk. Behind our eyes, we called her Shura. That was her husband's name. They came to our Prykarpattia village from somewhere in central Ukraine. Her husband worked as a policeman in Drohobych, and Shura was a primary school teacher. And the teacher, as they say, was from God. Demanding, fair and loving. And we all loved her. I remember when she used to walk from her house to school in the morning with a heavy bag, the boys would line up far in front of the school to help her carry the bag. From an early age, she instilled in me a love of cleanliness and order, a desire to learn new and unknown things, to improve my inclinations and preferences, a sense of satisfaction from a job well done, love for my land and language, for my parents and friends. Many thanks to her for this!

Surely, each of us has our own fond memories of our teachers, and our own special gratitude and respect for them.

I would like to end my short article with the words of the Song about the Teacher, which everyone knows and loves:

*«Сонечко встає
і шумить трава.
Бачу стежку, де
проходиш ти, рідна ти,
Вчителько моя,
зоре світова,
Звідки виглядати,
де тебе знайти?»*

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— Kat G.

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— Alexei B.

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Realtor®
925.378.9777
oksana.melnyk@compass.com
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UKRAINIAN KINDERGARTEN IN THE VICINITY OF SACRAMENTO

Myroslav Hrehk

Natalia Fanga is a young, creative, energetic woman. She lives in the town of Roseville in the vicinity of Sacramento. She opened a kindergarten for children of Ukrainian immigrants. It is worth noting that the children and teachers speak Ukrainian and English. Our correspondent Myroslav Hrehk interviewed Natalia.

Myroslav (M.): Natalia, please tell us about yourself.

Natalia (N.): I am from Berezhan, Ternopil Oblast, a teacher by profession (primary school teacher), graduated from Ternopil Pedagogical University, and worked in Ukraine in my specialty. I have always loved to learn, develop, and discover new things.

It so happened that at the end of 2010 we won a Green Card and came to the United States. Upon arrival here, I realized that in order to live a full life in the United States, I needed to master the English language, so I first went to an adult school and then enrolled in Sierra College, where I received three degrees in business with honors.

M.: When and how did you come up with the idea to create your own kindergarten?

H.: I already had a son here in the United States. When he started elementary school, we started having problems. Teachers complained about his inattention, activity, and disobedience. These complaints were wrong, far-fetched, because I knew my son better. So, using my pedagogical and psychological skills, I started working with him myself. It gave a good result. Now my son is one of the best students in the school, he has been repeatedly awarded with diplomas and has been repeatedly honored with certificates of appreciation.

And so, on the example of my son, I realized that I can help others, do something more. Also, on the example of my daughter Diana, I felt the difficulty of the adaptation period for Ukrainian children in American schools, where there were no Ukrainian-speaking staff before. That's how the idea to create her own private Ukrainian kindergarten came about, where she would provide first aid in adaptation to the English-speaking environment.

M.: How many children do you have in your kindergarten?



H.: Our Roseville Kids Corporation has 22 children. We recently opened a new building. These are mostly children from Ukrainian families. Although we do have a boy from a Filipino family. When asked why they enrolled their son in our kindergarten, the answer was as follows: "No one else can take care of children as well as Ukrainians."

M.: What do you do in this kindergarten?

H.: In addition to first-class child-

care with home-cooked meals, we offer educational classes in gymnastics, music, chess, English and Ukrainian. Also, on Fridays and Tuesdays, we hold Ukrainian cooking and baking classes, as well as Ukrainian language and Ukrainian studies lessons for all interested children. Regardless of whether they attend our kindergarten or not.

M.: What language are the classes taught in?

H.: In Ukrainian and English. I would like to note that when I came here, most Ukrainians here spoke Russian, although they spoke their native language at home. I had the impression that they were ashamed to speak Ukrainian in public.

So they sent their children to Russian-language kindergartens, of which there were many, so that they could learn Russian from an early age. There was not a single Ukrainian kindergarten here when I was trying to enroll my son. That's how the idea to open a Ukrainian-language institution for children was born. Since the beginning of the war, the situation has improved significantly in this regard. More and more people are switching to the Ukrainian language and are looking for Ukrainian-language kindergartens.

M.: What do your children know about Ukraine and the war? What do you teach them?

H.: To tell you the truth, there is not much to teach them, because most of them are children of immigrants who fled the war, and they saw and personally experienced all the horrors of war with their own eyes. We have to work with some children psychologically to reduce their anxiety and stress levels. In the kindergarten, we celebrate Ukrainian holidays – Independence Day, Ukrainian Flag Day, Vyshyvanka Day, Autumn Festival, Thanksgiving Day, and so on. We teach them to love everything that is Ukrainian.

M.: At the beginning of the conversation, you mentioned something about your grandfathers.

H.: My two grandfathers: Ivan Fanga and Hryhorii Fanga were members of the OUN and the UPA, and they paid for this with their freedom for 10 years in Norilsk and Vorkuta and five years in a foreign country without the possibility of returning to their native land.

Until the end of their lives, they remained sincere and loyal patriots of their homeland. Ivan Fanga's grandfather, being blind, wrote two books of patriotic poetry with my help. We managed to publish one during his lifetime under the title "Paths of Pain and Struggle," and the other remained in manuscripts.

My father, Vasyl Fanga, living in Germany, flew to Kyiv without hesitation when called to join the Maidan in 2014 and stood firm until the end. He was awarded for his services to the country. But, unfortunately, after the Maidan, he contracted kidney inflammation and died in 2017 after numerous surgeries.

M.: What are your prospects and

Open enrollment! Roseville Kids' Corporation

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plans for the kindergarten?

N.: I have recruited a wonderful team of professionals who really love their work and with whom we have a common goal, namely, to instill respect, honor, and love for Ukraine and its traditions.

I plan to create a large Ukrainian center, regardless of religion, to preserve the culture, language and traditions of Ukraine. I am confident that we will succeed in realizing this goal,

because we are Ukrainians, known as a strong and unbreakable nation.

I bow my head to the courage of my people! Glory to Ukraine!

M.: I envy your energy and perseverance, I bow my head to your patriotism, and I wish you every success in your noble cause. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me!

N.: Likewise, thank you for your attention!

STANDING UP FOR THE CHILDREN OF UKRAINE

As the war to protect Ukraine from a Russian takeover continues, so does the battle to protect their children from the impact of congenital heart defects.

Since 1995, Ukrainian **Gift of Life, Inc (UGOL)** has provided support for the advancement of pediatric cardiology in Ukraine along with Rotary's Gift of Life International (GOLI), Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), and other alliances developed by UGOL founding Trustee, George Kuzma. Recently, George led a mission trip to Ukraine to assess the level to which pediatric cardiology has progressed after 25 years of support. Rob Raylman, CEO of GOLI, and several Rotarians from New Jersey and Colorado and Dr. Henry Issenberg, recently retired cardiologist and UGOL board member joined him.

This mission team was charged with determining current needs and if it would be productive to continue providing financial, training and logistical assistance.

Ukraine airspace is closed to civilian flights and so the visitors were required to fly through Warsaw to Krakow, Poland and then to motor six hours into Lviv, Ukraine. Although the primary goal of the trip was medical assessment, they also obtained an understanding of the geography and culture. When they checked into the Citadel Inn, they were in awe when they realized that it was originally built in the early 1850s as an imposing fortress and converted during World War II into a Nazi concentration camp (known as the "Tower of Death") for Ukrainian prisoners. Because it is located near one of the highest points in Lviv, they were treated to a panorama of the city of Lviv.

UGOL and Rotary support is currently focused at St. Nicholas Hospital primarily for pediatric cardio surgery and at Ohmatdet, a pediatric hospital with a neonatal unit, chosen because of their mortality rates and success factors. On their first day in Lviv, the group toured the two hospitals.

The team was greeted by the grateful families of two children who had surgery sponsored by UGOL with a grant from GOLI. One was a 15-month-old girl from nearby Ternopil region whose defect was corrected minimally invasively under her right arm;



Ohmatdyt ICU

the other who this past spring, when two-weeks old, received a successful resection of the great aortic arch. This is an extremely complex surgery with a 40% mortality rate.

Dr. Issenberg, formerly a cardiologist with Westchester Medical Center and Montefiore Hospital, spent most of the day reviewing cases and surgical approaches in the cardiology unit. The day culminated with a round table that consisted of surgeons, cardiologists, and anesthesiologists from Kyiv and Lviv and the mission team. In attendance was Dr. Oleksandr Babliak, a leader in advancing minimally invasive pediatric heart surgery in Ukraine and world-wide who developed techniques to correct approximately 80% of genetic heart defects.

Having determined that the surgical approach at the hospital was as good as any approach in the US, the round table discussion centered on the needs in Ukraine that would continue to advance pediatric cardiology throughout the war. The group determined that the needs continue to be the sourcing of supplies and equipment (like the recently purchased infant cooling system for the neonatal unit), the UGOL training program at

CHOP, and providing for the surgical consumables for children of families in financial need. Notably, Mr. Raylman, who has developed and implemented scores of surgical missions throughout the world, observed that Ukraine is not a developing country in pediatric cardiology, but one that must be supported so that it can advance even further. It was agreed that this ongoing support would provide Ukraine with the opportunity to contribute on the world stage in the future.

On the next day at a meeting of two Lviv Rotary clubs, there was further testament to the success of efforts and support of pediatric cardiology in Ukraine. The program started by bringing over 100 children to the US for heart surgery in the years immediately following independence from the Soviet Union.

As Kuzma enters the meeting room, the waiting crowd applauds while standing to acknowledge George's presence. On one side of the room, are Rotarians he has worked with and doctors he has partnered with and supported over 2 decades. On the other side of the room, children, who are now adults, whose hearts he helped to heal, the beneficiaries of the UGOL

sponsored surgeries and their families.

"Showing up for the children of Ukraine is so important at this most traumatic, challenging time," says George as he revels in the joy of seeing children he helped and the adults they have become. Many of them having brought their own children with them. The young adults shared their gratitude for the UGOL outreach, Rotarian hospitality in America, and GOLI financial support for surgeries being performed in Ukraine.

To a person, the beneficiaries of George's efforts spoke of their most memorable moment of their visit to the United States for surgery – seeing George's smiling, comforting face as they arrived at the airport and knowing they would be ok. "To this day, I remember George at the airport and the fact he was there for me and so kind and positive made all the difference in the world," says Ira who was operated on in New York in 1999.

As he said goodbye to everyone, he was sure to leave them with a singular message, "I am the face and all these Rotarians here and in the US are the body. You should know that although I am not always here, you will always be in my heart."

George's passion for helping Ukraine has driven him to lead the way for nearly 1,000 children being provided life-saving surgeries their families could not afford while simultaneously engaging UGOL in other projects for doctors and to make pediatric cardiology self-sustainable in Ukraine.

"When Ukraine became independent in 1991, I decided I wanted to begin helping with a program we learned about through our son, a junior Rotary/Interact Club member", says George. He continued, "Ed came home from school and asked us to host a mother and her child, Veronika, who needed heart surgery. They were being brought from Poland to America by the local Rotary Gift of Life program. It was a very gratifying experience to see Veronika go home with her mother having hope for a healthy, happy life for her child and it was equally gratifying to begin 30-year friendships with Rotarians and becoming a Rotarian myself... Bringing Gift of Life to Ukraine was the perfect project."

After creating a UGOL board and raising some funds, George, his wife and his sister embarked on a visit to Ukraine in 1995 with the goal of putting together a strategy for making an impact in a country they held dear in their hearts. They met with family members and church leaders to identify credi-



Roundtable



Group of children who came to US from 1996 to 2003 for surgery

table partners in the venture. Meeting Dr. Yuriy Ivaniv, a respected cardiologist and Rotary member, who had a fax machine... made this project feasible.

UGOL has an alliance with several of the 84 Gift of Life International programs which are based in Rotary Clubs and Districts on 5 continents. Since 1975, this network has helped nearly 50,000 children with heart disease in the developing world.

Those who desire to participate in this effort can contribute to:

Ukrainian Gift of Life; 233 Rock Road; Glen Rock, NJ 07452

or by designating your donation for use in **Ukraine to Gift of Life International; PO Box 650436; Fresh Meadows, NY 11365 or to Rotary Dist. #7490 Gift of Life Committee; 700 Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, NJ 07432**

EVENTS 2023

OCTOBER

Ha/Su	Пн/Mo	Вт/Tu	Ср/We	Чт/Th	Пт/Fr	Сб/Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

21 OCT

A PASSION PROJECT POP-UP DINNER – BENEFITTING UKRAINE

Arizae Foundation and AYYA

Where: Private location will be shared after ticket purchase

When: Saturday, 6:30 PM – 10 PM

An evening featuring an intimate wine and cocktail reception, a multi-course, mouthwatering dinner/dessert prepared lovingly by AYYA, limited edition wines from boutique vineyards, and fabulous conversation. Savor each bite while enjoying the company of fellow supporters. We will dine alongside a few Ukrainians from war-torn Kharkiv who have fled to the safety of our communities here in Marin via the United 4 Ukraine program.

By attending this event, you'll contribute directly to support efforts in Ukraine. Your donations will help provide aid and assistance where it is most needed in Ukraine now. Together, we can bring hope and make a positive impact in Ukraine.

Please note, adults only.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-passion-project-pop-up-dinner-benefitting-ukraine-tickets-711584156367>

[com/e/a-passion-project-pop-up-dinner-benefitting-ukraine-tickets-711584156367](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-passion-project-pop-up-dinner-benefitting-ukraine-tickets-711584156367)

21 OCT

DRUGA RIKI x JENIA GALICH - SAN FRANCISCO – NORTH-AMERICAN TOUR 2023

Where: City Nights, 715 Harrison Street, San Francisco, United States

When: Saturday, 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Discover Ukrainian music – attend Druga Rika and Jenia Galich (O.Torvald) live performance on October 21st in San Francisco!

It's going to be an incredible with two legends of Ukrainian rock hitting the road for a joint acoustic tour. Usual drive and madness are switching to tenderness, harmony and acoustic guitar.

Druga Rika is a Ukrainian rock band that has been on stage for over 25 years. They were among musicians who developed the Ukrainian scene. And now the band is throwing charity live shows to support the AFU (Armed Forces of Ukraine). This October the audience is getting to hear the Insha Rika acoustic program that adds a new sound to the band's music.

Tickets start at \$30

<https://allevents.in/san%20francisco/druga-rika-x-jenia-galich-san-francisco-north-american-tour-2023/10000692859981857>

22 OCT

SAN FRANCISCO ANNUAL

BANQUET TO BENEFIT UCU

Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation

Where: McLaren Conference Center, University of San Francisco, 2345 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, CA 94117

When: Sunday, 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Please join us for our signature West Coast event featuring esteemed speakers, community leaders and special musical guests, and to enjoy the fellowship of friends committed to supporting UCU in these difficult and challenging times.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/san-francisco-annual-banquet-to-benefit-ucu-tickets-708612598357>

22 OCT

AFTERGLOW CHORUS CONCERT – "STAND UP: SUPPORT UKRAINE & FIGHT ANTISEMITISM"

AfterGlow Chorus: Harmony with Meaning

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

When: Sunday, 4 PM – 5:30 PM

AfterGlow Chorus is proud to present the concert "Stand Up: Support Ukraine & Fight Antisemitism." In this fall concert program, we hope to bring awareness to historical and cultural themes impacting Jewish and Ukrainian peoples. **Tickets** start at \$20

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/afterglow-chorus-concert-stand-up-support-ukraine-fight-antisemitism-tickets-693636193527>

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