

Studying and Teaching National Security

March 26, 2004

The Conference “Studying and Teaching National Security” was held March 26, 2004 at the Institute for International Relations of the Kyiv Taras Shevchenko National University. The conference was sponsored by the Fulbright Program in Ukraine with the support of the Fulbright Alumni and the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine. The Conference was opened by vice-Rector of the Diplomatic Academy Hryhory

Khomenko, and former ambassador and current Rector of the Diplomatic Academy Mykola Kulnych. Janet Demiray, the Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. Marta Pereyma, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, also addressed the audience during the conference opening.

The morning session was intended for a small group of specialists, Fulbrighters and non-Fulbrighters, to analyze Ukraine’s



At the Annual Medieval Fair in Khotyn

The Dnister River beyond the Khotyn Castle



security programs (SSP). A review of the American Political Science Departments in SSP was followed by a discussion of Ukraine’s SSP. Participants from different cities wanted to discuss the future development of security studies in Ukraine, and talked about forming a professional association to coordinate such efforts.

The afternoon session brought together a wider array of university, community and government representatives to discuss the role of security studies in Ukrainian universities, and the role of the university in Ukraine’s national security complex. The session was also intended to bring in non-governmental research organizations to continue the debate on the role of academia and civil society in defining questions of national interest — especially national security. This session

included many academics, government officials and non-governmental representatives. The panels consisted of three key speakers: Hryhory Perepelytzja — Deputy Director for the National Institute of Strategic Studies; Valery Chalyj — Head of the International Research Division of the Oleksandr Razumkov Ukrainian Center on Economic and Political Research; and Vasyl Tkachenko - Deputy Minister of Education and Science.

Ukraine is developing increasingly complex relations with Eurasian and European neighbors and is increasing relations with NATO countries, and states in the Middle and Far East. Questions raised during the conference included:

- How will emerging disputes and agreements affect regional and global security?

- Who is studying these questions in Ukraine, in Russia, in Europe, in the US? Can Ukrainian universities divorce themselves from the world, and from modern society?
- Ukraine merits special attention in security issues of Europe and the Northern Atlantic Region, but how adequately is the Ukrainian security question being addressed in Ukrainian universities, research centers and think tanks? Does the university have a duty toward the country which it serves?
- How well are Ukrainian officials and academics studying this question, and what cooperative arrangements have Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian security specialists made in order to study security issues that could have a wide range of effects? Can the university accommodate “public intellectuals”? Should the university defend its country with knowledge that is relevant to the concerns of the country?

Participants suggested resolutions to several USS-related problems. These included developing a stronger theoretical foundation in security studies in international relations faculties; increasing inter-institutional coordination domestically and internationally; and sponsoring an annual international academic gathering on security questions.

Svirzh Castle

