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Kuchma's election moves

Shuffle and deal

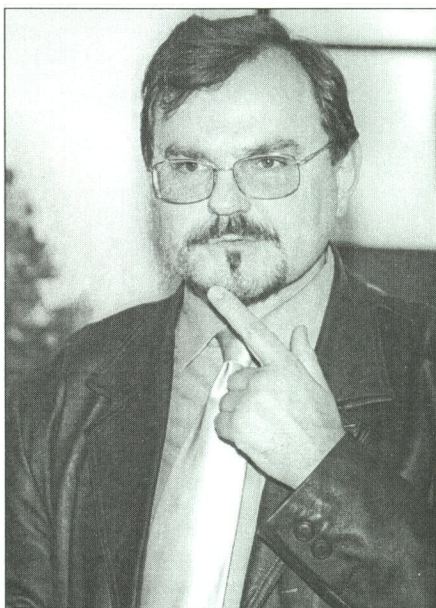
KYIV. In a surprise move for which there had been intense pressure from many quarters in recent months, Kuchma finally dismissed Vadym Dolganov as president of the National Television Company, UT-1, on Nov. 19. He also shuffled a number of other highly-placed officials over the next few days.

Dolganov's dismissal put an end to the two-year long battle by the VR to have Dolganov removed for his 'high-handed manner of reporting information.' Dolganov, well known as the host of a news wrap-up and analysis program called Seven Days, refused to carry out a resolution of the VR about broadcasting legislative activity.

Last spring, even then-premier Viktor Yushchenko had appealed to the president for Dolganov's dismissal as president of UT-1, though his requests went unheeded like all others. Dolganov was generally seen as a loyal servant to the "Guarantor of the Constitution" as the president is sometimes ironically called in Ukraine, and quite diligently and persistently conducted a propaganda policy in Kuchma's favor. President Kuchma, in turn, was fond of Dolganov and not really keen to replace him.

Dolganov: A scandal too many

A week ago, President Kuchma's big executive shuffle appeared to be the end of major personnel changes for now. It began Nov. 12 with Mykola Lytvyn, the brother of his chief-of-staff Volodymyr Lytvyn, taking over the State Committee on Border Security, Kuzmuk protégé Volodymyr Shkidchenko



Dolganov finally dismissed Photo: V. Falin

becoming Minister of Defense, and Yuriy Solovkov losing his post as head of the State Customs Authority. Such cardinal changes could have a huge impact on the course of events in the upcoming VR elections, given that control of the border and customs is very lucrative. These moves appeared to be the end of the new appointment process.

But obviously the president had more up his sleeve. The reality of a VR election seems to have pushed Kuchma to recognize that the main government television channel, with its nationwide

Continued p. 3

Fuel and energy policy

Tomorrow and beyond

The Ukrainian energy sector is a messy business, mainly because it affects so many state and private interests. This explains why it is so difficult to devise a development strategy for the sector: all of the various and competing interests must be taken into account and somehow reconciled. And the Power Engineering Institute of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences has been trying to do just that for a whole year now. The Academy presented its draft "Ukrainian Energy Sector Strategy until 2030 and Beyond" to the Fuel and Energy Ministry Nov. 21.

The Academy's Power Engineering Institute's strategy could very well become the guide for newly appointed Fuel and Energy Minister Vitaliy Haiduk. Worth not-

ing is the fact that the Strategy was delivered to the Ministry just after Haiduk was appointed. The new minister emphasized that he had no intentions of radically reforming the fuel and energy sector. "I don't think that now is the time for reform," Haiduk recently remarked to journalists.

Taking into account that Haiduk is from the Donetsk Industrial Union, otherwise known as the Donetsk clan, and considering his own professed devotion to Donbas regional interests, one may safely assume that he will not act on his own accord. Moreover, standing right beside him is a rather strong and influential politician in the person of Vice Prime Minister Oleh Dubyna who himself will be determining

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HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Focus on
Kirovohrad oblast
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The Haivoron region of Kirovohrad oblast is in the central part of Ukraine, about 310 km south of Kyiv. It borders on the Cherkasy, Odesa and Vinnytsia oblasts and has a territory of 694 sq km. It is famous for the deposits of graphite, granite, and yellow clay that form a pre-Cambrian crystal substructure. In addition to that, crystal rock can be found on the surface in the Southern Buh river valley.

Haivoron is the birthplace of many famous Ukrainians, including Vasyl Stus, Ihor Krutiy, and Yevhen Marchuk. According to archives, the region was formed in 1935 with the center in Haivoron, Odesa oblast, and in 1949 it acquired the status of a town. In 1954 the region was annexed to Kirovohrad oblast where in 1964 a hydro-electric powerstation with a 6,300 kW capacity was built on the Southern Buh river.

The Haivoron region's leading enterprise is the Haivoron Specialized Quarry founded in 1938. It specializes in mining deposits of granite, the supply of crushed stone for road construction, and ferro-concrete products. The strong granite excavated in this region was used for the construction of several Moscow metro stations, it can be found in the foundation of the Odesa railway station and buildings on Khreshchatyk in Kyiv. Crushed stone is now exported to Moldova. In the small village of Zavallya the Graphite Industrial Complex is in operation and annually produces 10,000 t of graphite, which it exports to Europe and Japan.

Another leading enterprise is a diesel locomotive repair plant, which repairs diesel locomotives, engines and produces spare parts for Ukrainian Railways rolling-stock. Other companies operating in the region include a bread mill, the Salkivsk Sugar Mill, Aktan, a butter and cheese dairy, a brick-making plant, a local printing house, a food processing plant, and also a host of small, private businesses.

Over the nine months of 2001, Hr

25.5mn worth of goods were produced, which is 64.5% of social economic development program and 125% compared to last year period, in September Hr 4.27mn worth of goods were produced which is 133% compared to last September's figures. An increase in the production of goods was attained thanks to the stable operation enterprises key to the region's industry profile: Zavalivskiy Graphite Industrial Complex, Haivoron Specialized Quarry, KhliboDar, and several other small and medium enterprises. In 2001 new products have appeared: "KhliboDar" started produce 14 kinds of groats, the non-alcoholic beverages plant began making wine, the diesel locomotive repair plant repairs diesel engines, and SlavianePlus makes wheat flour products. The share of small and medium enterprises in the region's overall production is 17% or Hr 4.3mn.

Over the first nine months of 2001 consumer goods production was Hr 8.045mn, which is 100.2% higher than last year's figures for the whole twelve months. In September alone, Hr 936,600 worth of consumer goods were produced.

Industry in the region demonstrates a stable trend for increasing volumes of good output, but it is only the first step in the complex and highly responsible work of restoring and developing the region's considerable economic potential. This year is likely to be the year of the region's further development, intensification and strengthening of positive trends in all spheres of economic and financial activity of enterprises in industry.

A total of 78 farms have been set up in the Haivoron region, 24 of which are privately owned. The gross harvest of crops, not including corn, was 67,789 t, while the crop yield was 40.1 cent/ha. The total anticipated harvest was 80,000 t, with an expected yield of 35.6 cent/ha. Milk output through Q3 of

this year 28,975 centners, which is 4.3% higher than last year with a 1,546 kg yield per cow which is 25.4% higher than last year. Meanwhile, meat production is 2,660 centners, and production of eggs is 3.8% higher than of the amount produced during the same period last year.

The volume of retail goods was Hr 9.8mn during the nine months of 2001, which is 17.1% higher than last year's volume, and Hr 1.2mn in September alone. The volume of paid services rendered increased by 15.2% and reached Hr 5.443mn. The overall increase is due to the increase in the delivery of consumer services, cars, TV, radio and home appliances repairs.

During nine months of 2001 a total of Hr 5.85mn worth of electricity were consumed, and Hr 5.3mn paid or 90.6% of payables. Payments for September were 115.8% of what was actually consumed and over the first nine months of 2001, budget institutions settled 100% accounts payable for energy consumption.

As of Jan. 1, 2001, the region had 43,500 inhabitants, 20,200 in the rural area. Ethnically, the majority of them are Ukrainians, but there are also Russians, Armenians, Belarussians, Moldovans, Jews and so on.

A total of 5,812 students study at 22 state institutions of general education. There is also a mechanical engineering school, a professional technical school, an interschool educational production complex, a junior technicians and natural history study group, and a Center of Youth and Children's Creative Work.

There are four hospitals, four outpatient's clinics, 15 medical attendants' and obstetric aid points operating in the region that make up the medical union. Cultural and educational work is carried out at 22 different cultural centers and clubs. Among sports institutions are three sports schools for children and youth that tend to focus on soccer, basketball, rowing, field athletics and skittles.

At the beginning of the cold season, of the 1,800 t of fuel educational institutions need for heating, there are only 630 t. Medical institutions require 800 t, but only have 50% of what is needed. Fuel supply is carried out according to agreements with Kirovohrad-Qbil'nyyvo, Makbo-94, and Ukraine.

The small town of Zavallia needs 4,000 t of bore-coal crumb and 2,000 t are available, which is 50% of what is needed. In Haivoron heating will be provided by a public utilities complex which needs 600 t of fuel and has only 420 t. Because tenants living in apartment buildings on Haivoron Street are reluctant to pay their debts for consumed heating and pay 50% of the fuel needed, the city council made a decision not to provide heating to these buildings. It did however decide that the needy people residing in the buildings will receive assistance. •



– Y. Brydun and I. Koverdiaha