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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN  
UKRAINIAN SOCIETY AGAINST THE  
BACKGROUND OF EUROPEAN  
TRANSFORMATIONS**

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**Levchuk K., Bogatchuk S., Bogatchuk V.,  
Belkin I., Makarov Z.**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1	<p><b>Levchuk K.<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p><b>PARTICIPATION OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF SOCIAL RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF UKRAINE (90S OF THE XX CENTURY)</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Head of the Department of History of Ukraine and Philosophy. Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, Vinnytsia, Ukraine</p>	7
1.1	<b>HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE STUDY</b>	7
1.2	<b>PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS OF VETERANS AND DISABLED PEOPLE</b>	8
1.3	<b>PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS OF VICTIMS OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT</b>	24
1.4	<b>ACTIVITIES OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF UKRAINE</b>	36
2	<p><b>Bogatchuk S.<sup>1</sup>, Bogatchuk V.<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><b>HEAVY PAGES OF HISTORY: TO THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLODOMOR OF 1932-1933</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor of History of Ukraine and Philosophy Department, Vinnytsia National Agrarian University (Ukraine, Vinnytsia)</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Lecturer at the Humanities and Social Sciences, Separate Structural Unit “Technological and Industrial Professional College” of Vinnytsia National Agricultural University (Vinnytsia, Ukraine)</p>	47
2.1	<b>RECOGNITION OF THE HOLODOMOR AS A GENOCIDE OF THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY</b>	50
2.2	<b>AS IF SATAN DESCENDED ON EARTH (OLES VOLYA)</b>	55
2.3	<b>DEMOGRAPHIC LOSSES OF UKRAINIANS IN 1932-1933 AS A RESULT OF THE GENOCIDE OF THE STALINIST REGIME</b>	65
3	<p><b>Belkin I.<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p><b>BUSINESS PLANNING IN MODERN MARKET CONDITIONS</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy, Associate Professor at Department of Agricultural Management and Marketing, Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, Vinnytsia, Ukraine</p>	80
4	<p><b>Makarov Z.<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p><b>THE RATIONAL STATUS OF CHANCE IN POST-NONCLASSICAL METHODOLOGY</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> PhD of Philosophy, Senior Lecturer at Department History of Ukraine and Philosophy, Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, Ukraine</p>	121
4.1	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	121
4.2	<b>LEGITIMATION OF CHANCE IN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE: POSSIBILITIES OF THE ACTIVITY APPROACH</b>	123

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN UKRAINIAN SOCIETY AGAINST THE  
BACKGROUND OF EUROPEAN TRANSFORMATIONS

4.3	COGNITIVE ACTIVITY IN THE STRUCTURE OF GENERAL SCIENTIFIC METHODS: RATIONALITY AND CHANCE	131
4.4	THE PRAGMATIC SCIENTIFIC METHOD: COGNITIVE AND SOCIOLOGICAL SOURCES OF RANDOMNESS	142
4.5	STOCHASTICITY IN THE POST-NONCLASSICAL DYNAMICS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE	149
4.6	POST-NON-CLASSICAL EMANCIPATION OF RATIONALITY AND DETERMINISM: SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE PREREQUISITES	161
4.7	CONCLUSIONS	166

## **1. Participation of public organizations in the protection of social rights of the population of Ukraine (90s of the XX century)**

### **1.1 Historiography of the study**

Formation of the "Afghan" movement (a veteran organization of former soldiers and officers of the Soviet Army who served in Afghanistan) during the 1980s and early 1990s. S. Chervonopyskyi, head of the Ukrainian Union of Veterans of Afghanistan (UUVA), is researching in Ukraine. He focuses on the fact that the official support for the amateur "Afghan" movement was provided only in 1987-1988 and was intended to oppose them to informal associations, to proclaim the organizations of internationalist warriors as carriers of Soviet patriotism [1]. The declaration of Ukraine's independence contributed to the development of a new strategy and tactics for the existence of the "Afghan" organization. "After the events of 1991, we decided to "fight" for our "Afghan" Committee in the parliament, because we understood that without state support, it would be difficult for the UUVA to fight for its existence," noted S. Chervonopyskyi [2]. So, the head of the public organization admitted that the activity of the UUVA in the first years of Ukraine's independence depended on constructive cooperation with state structures.

The work of I. Krasyl'nikov, S. Grigoriev, H. Galkin, and L. Besarab is devoted to the development of veteran organizations in the capital of Ukraine [3]. Analytical research on the veteran movement of Ukraine in the 90s of the 20th century, carried out by V. Ablazov, who at that time was the deputy chairman of the Committee for Veterans of War and Military Conflicts under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, stands out. The author proves that the real level of social protection of veterans and the number of organizations that declare it are not mutually related. The lack of a requirement for public organizations to have a fixed membership in the Law of Ukraine "On Association of Citizens" became the main reason for the emergence of veteran organizations, which, apart from leaders and management apparatus, do not have real members [4].

The creation of the All-Ukrainian Organization of War Disabled Persons and the Armed Forces in 1993, its organizational structure and participation in the social protection of war disabled persons and the Armed Forces are described by V. Bondaruk, M. Lebedynskyi, P. Mashkovets, and V. Sushkevich [5]. The authors believe that the separation of the association from the Organization of Veterans of Ukraine was aimed at protecting the special status of disabled war veterans and their right to state support, which they had until 1987, when all categories were included among the members of the Ukrainian division of the All-Union Organization of War and Labor Veterans veterans - war invalids, war veterans, labor veterans, pensioners. The authors objectively assess the organization's capabilities, pointing out that the main source of funding remains revenues from the budget.

The position of social protection of victims of the Chernobyl disaster was considered in the works of V. Pylypenko, G. Mimandusova, and O. Vyshniak. The researchers focused on studying the socio-psychological condition of the victims, analyzed the sources of assistance to the liquidators of the accident and resettlers from the exclusion zone. At the same time, the process of formation of public organizations that united the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, their participation in the legislative process aimed at solving the social problems of "Chernobyl residents" and protecting their legitimate interests [6, 7] remained out of the attention of researchers.

### **1.2 Public organizations of veterans and disabled people**

The socio-economic crisis of the first half of the 90s of the 20th century contributed to the strengthening of the social vector in the activities of public organizations. Legislated social guarantees were not fully implemented, which prompted public organizations to use various forms and methods aimed at protecting vulnerable social strata in the context of the crisis.

The growing authority and social status of public organizations, taking into account their influence on solving the social needs of certain categories of the population of Ukraine contributed to the adoption of a number of legislative and by-laws, in which preferences were given to socially significant public associations. A

special status was guaranteed to public organizations of the disabled, which were created for the purpose of implementing measures for social protection, social, labor and medical rehabilitation of the disabled and involving them in socially beneficial activities. The governing bodies of all-Ukrainian associations of the disabled, in accordance with the Law "On the Basics of Social Protection of the Disabled in the Ukrainian SSR" of March 21, 1991, acquired the right of legislative initiative in the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian SSR, and all products of enterprises, institutions and public organizations of the disabled were included in the state order with full provision of material and technical resources [8, p. 99].

With the transition of the economy to market conditions of management, enterprises, organizations, cultural and educational and rehabilitation institutions, which were created in the structure of all-Ukrainian associations of the disabled during the Soviet era, needed legally established preferences. Enterprises of disabled people's organizations could not compete on an equal footing with enterprises where a healthy workforce worked. This led to bankruptcies, loss of social guarantees, destruction of the structure of public organizations. Thus, the Ukrainian Society of the Blind (USB) was created in 1933. In the first half of the 90s of the XX century. it united more than 60,000 blind citizens of Ukraine. In the structure of USB there were 45 educational and publishing associations and enterprises, libraries, hostels, cultural centers, recreation centers, a sanatorium, a magazine and a newspaper for the blind were published. Since 1947, the society has carried out all statutory activities at the expense of income from educational and industrial associations and enterprises [9, p. 8].

In the autumn of 1993, during the drafting of the Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 1994", the Verkhovna Rada received comments and appeals from two influential organizations of disabled people in Ukraine - USB and the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf (USD), in which they expressed a desire to take into account their special status and release from paying taxes of enterprises, cultural and educational institutions and institutions of USD, USB, Union of Organizations of Disabled People of Ukraine. All-Ukrainian organizations expressed concern about the possibility of the emergence of associations of disabled people with a small number of



members, which can use benefits to establish industrial activities, and at the same time will not engage in social protection of all disabled people [9, p. 6-7].

Important benefits for the employment of the disabled were guaranteed by Articles 19 and 20 of the Law "On the Basics of Social Protection of the Disabled". The norms of workplaces reserved in production for the disabled were determined by local councils, but could not be less than five percent of the total number of employees. Enterprises, institutions and organizations that did not ensure the implementation of regulations deducted funds for the creation of such jobs from the social protection fund for the disabled [8, p.100].

In the conditions of reforming the economy, changing the ownership of enterprises, it became more and more difficult for the Ukrainian state to guarantee preferences for the disabled. On September 7, 1994, the Cabinet of Ministers sent to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine an explanatory note to the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of the Ukrainian SSR "On the Basics of Social Protection of the Disabled in the Ukrainian SSR." In particular, it was noted that the practice of proving to all enterprises, institutions and organizations the standard of workplaces intended for the employment of disabled people, no lower than five percent, revealed a lack of economic justification of the value of this standard. For example, in the absence of the required number of disabled persons to fill vacant jobs, the Marganets Mining and Processing Plant had to pay 10.4 billion rubles in 1994, which caused acute dissatisfaction among the workforce. According to the representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the norm of job reservation should not exceed two percent. That is how many disabled people, according to the Cabinet's calculations, have the desire and opportunity to work in production (456.3 thousand people). Enterprises should not be responsible, let alone pay fines, for the fact that they employ fewer disabled people than they are defined by regulations [10, p.5-6].

The Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on social policy and labor at its meeting on September 14, 1994 decided to finalize the draft law. The working group, in addition to experts from the Cabinet of Ministers and members of the Commission, included V. Ryabchenko – executive director of the Union of

Organizations of the Disabled of Ukraine, V. Bilchych – head of the central board of the Ukrainian Society of the Blind, Yu. Maksimenko – head of the central board of the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf [10 , p. 28]. On October 5, at an extended meeting of the Commission, a decision was announced, which, in particular, stated: "The Verkhovna Rada Commission on Social Policy and Labor, having previously considered the Law "On Amendments to the Law of the Ukrainian SSR "On the Basics of Social Protection of the Disabled in the Ukrainian SSR" prepared by the Cabinet of Ministers ", does not object to the reduction of the quota for employment of citizens in need of social protection by enterprises and organizations conducting reductions in the number or staff of employees... At the same time, the Commission cannot agree with the draft Law as drafted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, as it is discriminatory against vital interests of the disabled, in addition, the drafters of the draft law did not take into account the opinions of public organizations of the disabled. The said bill was revised with the involvement of specialists of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Fund of Ukraine for Social Protection of the Disabled, the Union of Organizations of the Disabled of Ukraine, USB and USD, as a result of which an alternative version of the bill was developed, which is presented by the Commission for discussion [10, pp. 65-67]. "

On October 14, 1994, at a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Commission on Social Policy and Labor, Yu. Buzdugan, in his speech in defense of the alternative draft law prepared by the Commission and representatives of public organizations, singled out three aspects that should contribute to its support. In particular, the legal aspect was based on the decision of the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly, which in 1993 adopted standard rules for ensuring equal opportunities for the disabled. According to international norms, without the participation of disabled people's organizations, changes in the legislation regulating the life activities of disabled people cannot be considered. The economic aspect was based on statistical data. If in Ukraine in 1991 one third of disabled people worked, then in 1994 only one out of twelve worked. If in 1991 500,000 disabled people wanted to work, three years later two and a half times more wanted to work. According to Yu.

Buzdugan, the moral and ethical position of the critics of the social legislation was also far from perfect: "Here they spoke and made such an argument, for example, that disabled people cannot be placed near the marten or lowered into the mine to extract coal. It's true. But it is precisely at these enterprises that most disabled people are produced. If they cannot provide them with work, then let them pay so that these disabled people at least work at home [10, p. 99]." The Law "On Amendments to the Law of the Ukrainian SSR "On the Basics of Social Protection of the Disabled in the Ukrainian SSR", prepared by the Commission, was supported by 276 deputies. Standards for workplaces intended for the employment of disabled people for all enterprises and organizations were determined in the amount of at least four percent of the total number of employees [10, p. 1].

Veterans' organizations have been very active in protecting state-guaranteed benefits for the elderly. If in Soviet times they focused on cooperation with the CPSU-CPU and sought to legislate preferences for veterans, then in the conditions of sovereign Ukraine they acquired legal status. On November 19, 1991, the first congress of the Organization of Veterans of Ukraine (OVU) approved the Statute and elected army general I. Gerasimov as the head of the OVU Council. The main goal of the organization's activities was declared to be comprehensive protection of the legal, social, economic, age-related and other interests of its members. To fulfill the set goal, the OVU had to provide assistance to veterans in improving living conditions, medical, trade, and household support; to submit proposals to authorities and management on issues related to veterans; to promote the involvement of pensioners in secondary labor activities; establishing communication between veterans and maintaining their morale; to participate in patriotic education of youth. The definition of membership in the organization was too detailed and at the same time vague. Members of the OVU could be: veterans of the Great Patriotic War, former partisans, underground fighters, militiamen, fighters of anti-fascist resistance, participants in local wars, workers of the military front, pensioners of labor, the Armed Forces and law enforcement agencies, widows of fallen soldiers, rehabilitated, other senior citizens who live in Ukraine. At the same time, registration of individual membership could be carried out on the basis

of oral statements of those willing [11, p. 4]. The absence of a requirement of mandatory fixed membership in the Statute actually classified the OVO as a mass social movement.

On January 24, 1992, the OVU Council addressed the President of Ukraine with a letter, which concentrated the demands on the executive power regarding guarantees of the rights of pensioners in connection with the liberalization of prices and the beginning of market reforms. In particular, the letter emphasized the need to transition to a standardized system of distribution of essential goods as one of the conditions for the survival of low-income sections of the population of Ukraine; the accelerated adoption of the law on social protection of veterans was demanded; bringing the size of the minimum pension to the size of the minimum salary established in Ukraine; establishing a moratorium on the increase in payment for communal services; identification of stores where veterans could purchase products at the most affordable prices; organization of free hospitals for the needy; exemption of veteran cooperatives from taxes [12, p. 25].

Veterans' organizations paid special attention to the development of legislation that would guarantee veterans and their family members, at least, the preservation of the preferential status acquired during the Soviet era. Until 1987, only the disabled people of the Patriotic War had significant state support: they received increased pensions, were treated and rehabilitated at state expense, received the necessary medicines according to prescriptions, had special shops with discounted prices, hospitals, health facilities, prosthetic factories. Since 1988, all veterans of the Patriotic War have received similar preferences [5, p.10]. In 1990, a number of benefits were extended to participants in the Afghan war and their families. In particular, the families of the deceased "Afghans" were treated with scarce products and goods on a par with disabled people of the Great Patriotic War, and their children of preschool and school age were provided with preferential service in the Children's World chain of stores [12, p. 128].

In connection with the development of the draft law on the social status of veterans, during 1991-1992 the Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for

veterans, pensioners, disabled, repressed, low-income and internationalist soldiers received letters from local organizations of veterans with the demand to take into account their status as participants in hostilities (which would be provided with the greatest benefits). The all-Ukrainian veterans' organization "Ostanniy voizovii privoz", which united military personnel who were drafted in the last months of the Great Patriotic War and served in the deep rear, was particularly active. For example, members of the Dnipropetrovsk city organization wrote in a letter: "In 1988, when benefits were introduced for participants in the Great Patriotic War, we lost the right to be called participants in the war and were "equalized", with reduced benefits and without recalculation of pensions [12, pp. 3-7 ]. The Ukrainian Union of Former Minor Prisoners of Fascist Concentration Camps requested in the new Law to provide its members with the same benefits as those for war invalids, as well as for the Verkhovna Rada to demand financial compensation from Germany for the suffering of minors in concentration camps [12, p. 37- 54]. No less radical was the proposal of the Republican Society of Germans of Crimea "Widergeburt" and the Crimean Fund for Aid to Germans - Victims of Stalinist Repressions, demanding to recognize as participants in the Great Patriotic War persons of German nationality who were deported from Ukraine to NKVD concentration camps in 1941, where the entire war worked in forestry, in mines, and in the construction of defense factories, which contributed to the fight against fascism [13, pp. 43-44].

But the most consistent in protecting the benefits of war participants was the draft law entitled "Status of participants in wars and families of deceased participants in these wars", prepared on behalf of the Committee of Veterans of the War in Afghanistan and Military Conflicts in Other Foreign Countries, which was created under the President of Ukraine in 1992. The draft law, in particular, stated that the state should guarantee every war participant and family members of fallen participants opportunities in the economic, social, and political spheres, including: provision of pensions under favorable conditions, provision of benefits in the provision of housing, provision of benefits and benefits in employment , professional training, education, creation of proper conditions for maintaining health and active longevity. The

participants in the wars and the families of the dead had the right to receive free medicine and, if necessary, use specialized polyclinics, they were to be guaranteed free dental prosthetics and extraordinary provision of sanatorium-resort treatment, the right to priority living space, an interest-free loan for individual housing construction, etc. [12, C 101-107]. The globality of benefits, inadequate to the state's economic condition, turned the bill into a wishful thinking.

In the autumn of 1992, two draft laws were proposed for public discussion: "On the status of war veterans, guarantees of their social protection", prepared by specialists of the Cabinet of Ministers with the wide participation of veteran organizations, and an alternative one, prepared by the Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Veterans, Pensioners, Disabled, Repressed, the poor and internationalist warriors. The draft law of the Cabinet of Ministers proposed the traditional form of providing benefits: separate articles determined that a certain benefit is provided for free, or for half the cost, first of all, or out of turn. Whereas in the draft of the Law prepared by the Commission, it was proposed to credit war veterans with a certain amount of money, which the veterans will use to buy medicine, tickets, etc. - "monetization" of benefits. Considering the hyperinflation that began in the Ukrainian economy, "monetization" practically destroyed the minimum social guarantees of veterans [12, p. 124].

On December 12, 1992, at the session of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the position of veteran organizations regarding draft laws was voiced by the representative of the Council of the OVU, F. Ishchenko. The veteran public, rejecting the project of the Commission for the Affairs of Veterans, Pensioners, Disabled, Repressed, Poor and Internationalist Soldiers, proposed a number of additions to the draft law prepared by the Cabinet of Ministers. In particular, take into account the numerous complaints of the last military conscription born in 1927 and determine their legal status; clearly define the rights of labor veterans and veterans of the Armed Forces; extend the right to a 50 percent discount on utility bills for veterans of labor and the Armed Forces. The speech emphasized the fact that it is necessary to recognize not only the benefits and advantages of veterans, but also the organizations in which they united to defend their rights. The protection of the rights and interests of veterans, along with state bodies, is

carried out by veterans' organizations, which are united by the board of the Organization of Veterans of Ukraine, acting according to the statute of the OVU. Public organizations of veterans have the right to participate in the development and decision-making of state bodies, to defend the interests of their members. State structures can provide veteran organizations with financial support, provide premises, equipment and other property free of charge [12, pp. 134-138].

Thus, for the first time, the Organization of Veterans of Ukraine openly emphasized the need to unify the veteran movement under the statute of the OVU, which threatened the bureaucratization and formalization of public initiatives, a return to the large privatized public organizations of the Soviet era, but, on the other hand, allowed to concentrate the efforts of scattered veteran organizations associations in opposition to state structures that tried to limit benefits to veterans. It should be noted that the speech focused on solving the problems of veterans of the Great Patriotic War, while the issue of the unity of the entire veteran movement of Ukraine in defending their rights was not highlighted. If the veterans of the Afghan war, united in the UUVVA, obtained benefits and a special status in society without opposition from veteran organizations of the older generation, then the status of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UIA) soldiers became a stumbling block for the veteran movement of Ukraine. Thus, in March 1992, deputies of the Rivne Regional Council of People's Deputies made an appeal to the Verkhovna Rada regarding the participants of the national liberation movement in Ukraine. In the appeal, the deputies demanded to recognize the national liberation struggle of the Ukrainian people of 1930-1950 as a legal and just struggle for the independence of Ukraine, and the UPA as an opposing party. It was proposed to instruct the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to consider the issue of assigning former UIA soldiers to the category of disabled and World War II participants [12, p. 35]. In the summer of 1992, the legal affairs management department of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, analyzing the draft Law on the Social Status of Veterans, noted that "the important issue of resolving the status of persons from the UIA and other similar military formations [12, p. 98] was bypassed."

In response to the attempts to rehabilitate the UIA veterans, the structures of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, both at the local and all-Ukrainian levels, categorically opposed it. In July 1992, in a letter addressed to the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the heads of the OVU of Donetsk Oblast demanded not only to record in the Law on the Social Status of Veterans the rights of veterans' councils, in accordance with the statute of the OVU, but "demanded to protect the honor and dignity of the participants of the Great Patriotic War and not allow the rehabilitation of traitors to the Ukrainian people who were in the UIA [12, p. 76]. Despite the opposition of the OVU and other veteran organizations, in the Law of Ukraine "On the Status of War Veterans, Guarantees of Their Social Protection" the status of a participant in hostilities was acquired by the soldiers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army who participated in battles against the German-fascist invaders in the temporarily occupied territory in 1941-1944, who did not commit crimes against peace and humanity and were rehabilitated in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On the Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression in Ukraine [14, p. 11]." The All-Ukrainian Association of Veterans, which was established on October 13-14, 1996 in Kyiv at the All-Ukrainian Congress of Veterans, provides support to former UIA soldiers. People's deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine I. Yukhnovskyi was elected the head of the new public association. P. Dorozhynskyi, who was a soldier of the UPA in the past, noted in his congratulatory speech: "In conditions when the vast majority of Ukrainian veteran organizations created under the communist regime actually take anti-state, anti-Ukrainian positions, openly showing nostalgia for the past thrown into the dustbin of history and seeking to restore the Soviet of the Moscow Empire, the unification of all healthy constructive forces in the veteran movement, which stand for Ukrainian statehood and independence of Ukraine [15], is of particular importance.

The creation of the All-Ukrainian Association of Veterans, whose members called for the rehabilitation of the UIA soldiers, caused the rejection of a number of local organizations of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. For example, in December 1996, the Kyiv City Organization of the Armed Forces of Ukraine distributed a leaflet with calls not to recognize the UIA as an opposing party in World War II, [16, p. 18], and



the Vinnytsia Council of Veterans' Organizations condemned the "nationalist positions" of the founders of the All-Ukrainian Association of Veterans. In an open letter to the first persons of the state, a request was made not to allow the registration of a new veteran association, as its name almost repeats the name of the OVU [16, pp. 13-14].

The second reading of the Law of Ukraine "On the status of war veterans, guarantees of their social protection" took place in July 1993. When finalizing it, more than a thousand proposals received by the Committees of the Verkhovna Rada from people's deputies, ministries and departments, veterans' and other public organizations were studied [17, p. 81]. While generally agreeing with the draft law, which was discussed in the second reading, the Council of the OVU expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that certain articles defining the status and benefits of labor veterans were removed without the consent of veterans' organizations [13, p. 42].

On October 23, 1993, the Law of Ukraine "On the Status of War Veterans, Guarantees of Their Social Protection" was enacted by a Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada. Article 20 of the Law granted certain rights to public organizations and other associations of war veterans, which within their powers contribute to the development of decisions by legislative and executive authorities, represent and protect the legitimate interests of their members in state bodies. Bodies of the state executive power, local bodies of the state executive power and self-government, the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, within the limits of their competence, provide veteran organizations with financial support, loans from the funds of the relevant budgets, and also provide free of charge houses, premises, equipment and other property necessary for their implementation statutory tasks [14, p. 16]. On November 22, 1995, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine introduced changes and additions to the Law of Ukraine "On the Status of War Veterans, Guarantees of Their Social Protection." Tax benefits for enterprises created by veterans' associations and benefits for trade organizations serving veterans were canceled [18, p. 69]. The strengthening of tax discipline was caused by a significant number of abuses in the activities of enterprises created under the auspices of veteran and Chernobyl organizations.

In order to implement the state social policy in relation to war veterans and other persons subject to the Law of Ukraine "On the Status of War Veterans, Guarantees of Their Social Protection", in January 1997 the Committee on Veterans of War and Military Conflicts in Foreign Countries was established under the Cabinet of Ministers . In accordance with the Regulations governing its activities, the Committee coordinated the efforts of executive authorities, local self-government bodies, and public organizations in the implementation of state social policy regarding war veterans [19, p. 3].

Despite the decree of the Law of Ukraine "On the status of war veterans, guarantees of their social protection", the standard of living of veterans in the conditions of the socio-economic crisis continued to decrease. Veteran organizations were forced to use methods of street pressure: demonstrations, picketing, meetings to get officials to pay attention to their demands. On September 19, 1995, a representative of veterans, a member of the presidium of the Council of the OVU H. Kalynychenko voiced the demands of the protesters from the rostrum of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. He noted that "today, at the end of life, we have witnessed the collapse of the economy, the impoverishment of the people, which, according to the general opinion of veterans, is being carried out on the advice of foreign advisers and experts with the aim of turning Ukraine into a commodity appendage of foreign capital" [20, p. 3 ].

The main demands of veterans were outlined in the following points:

1. Firmly and consistently implement the Laws of Ukraine, which guarantee the social protection of veterans;
2. Establish a minimum pension not lower than the actual subsistence minimum;
3. To eliminate the "equalizing system" and to remove restrictions on the upper limit of pensions by age;
4. To index pensions by the percentage of salary growth;
5. In the near future, provide apartments for those veterans who, for valid reasons, are left without their own housing or who need to improve housing conditions;
6. Save the required number of state stores to serve war and labor veterans;
7. Establish legal liability for refusal to provide medical assistance;

8. To ensure free receipt of medicines for treatment;

9. To perform ritual services at the expense of the state [20, pp. 4-6].

In the resolution adopted by the Verkhovna Rada, the Cabinet of Ministers was instructed to consider the proposals expressed in the appeal of pensioners, war and labor veterans. When preparing the State Budget for 1996, foresee an increase in social sector allocations in accordance with the growth of inflation, the level of prices and tariffs for essential goods and services [20, p. 1]. In response, the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population of Ukraine informed the Commission on Social Policy and Labor that the level of pension provision of citizens does not correspond to the subsistence level, which is due to the difficult economic situation in the state. And "proposals of the councils of Kyiv city and regional organizations of veterans of Ukraine will be taken into account in the further improvement of the current legislation and as the socio-economic situation in Ukraine stabilizes [20, p. 9-10]."

During the first half of the 90s of the 20th century. the number of all-Ukrainian and international organizations of veterans has increased in Ukraine. Thus, in 1997, 11 associations of war veterans with all-Ukrainian status operated in Ukraine. The existence of a significant number of public organizations, which declared social protection of war veterans as the main statutory task, is caused by a number of factors. First, the absence of fixed membership requirements for public organizations at the legislative level, which "allows having "generals without an army", that is, creating "top" organizations that, apart from the management apparatus, do not have real members, but have claims to make statements from broad circles, veterans to receive material state charitable assistance, or to perform representative functions [21].” Secondly, the increase in the number of veteran organizations and the lack of unity in the veteran movement is caused by the fact of political confrontation regarding the status of participants in the UIA formations. According to V. Ablazov, who in 1998 held the position of deputy chairman of the Committee for Veterans of War and Military Conflicts in Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, only two public organizations - the Organization of Veterans of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Union of Veterans of Afghanistan (UUVA) had regional organizations as branches of

organizations with all-Ukrainian status in all regions of Ukraine. They are absent in other veteran organizations, and the justice departments of regional state administrations do not have information about the legalization of their branches in most regions of Ukraine, as required by the current legislation [4, p. 6-7].

The participants of the war in Afghanistan, united in the UUVA, became an integral part of the veteran movement of Ukraine. The resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated April 2, 1993 "On promoting the activities of the Ukrainian Union of Veterans of Afghanistan" played an important role in promoting the charitable and humanitarian activities of the Ukrainian Association of Veterans of Afghanistan. The resolution obliged ministries and departments, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea, local state administrations, executive committees of local councils of people's deputies, heads of state enterprises, organizations and institutions to provide permanent assistance to the UUVA in solving the tasks of social rehabilitation of veterans of the war in Afghanistan and military conflicts in other foreign countries, to promote the development of the production base and the social sphere of enterprises and organizations founded with the participation of the Union. The need to provide the Union and its branches with the necessary administrative premises, furniture, motor vehicles, means of communication and office equipment was indicated. In accordance with the Resolution, the Committee of Veterans of the War in Afghanistan and Military Conflicts in Other Foreign Countries was transferred to the management of the Yevpatoriya Military Sanatorium, the "Oster" Rest House, and the 800th Military Hospital with 200 beds. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Ministry of Defense, and local state administrations were instructed to provide material and methodological assistance to military-patriotic clubs and associations created with the participation of the UUVA [22].

In the years 1990-1993, more than 100 enterprises were created in the structure of UUVA, which were supposed to contribute to the financing of social projects and the development of local branches of the Union. Having received tax benefits from the state - exemption from income tax on the condition that the released funds are transferred to the accounts of regional organizations of the Union and to the UUVA

fund for use for charitable purposes, most enterprises ignored the authority of the Union, keeping the funds with themselves, [23] which led to cancellation of the preference by the state in 1994. A few years later, the assessment of the economic condition of the organization was corrected and it was the fact that the Union deliberately refused state benefits in economic and commercial activities. Enterprises created by "Afghans" were engaged in the construction of housing for veterans, trade and brokerage activities, but payments to the budget were made in full. "Having agreed to the practically unprivileged status quo of the organized Afghan movement, we did not allow criminal, dirty elements of various plans to smear it and preserved the main thing - the unity of the organization, our authority in society", - stated the head of UUVA S. Chervonopyskyi [24].

The priority direction of UUVA activity during the 90s of the 20th century. there was still work to perpetuate the memory of fallen soldiers, help their families. More than 120 monuments and memorial plaques were opened. The Church of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv was built with funds from the Union as a memorial to the victims of the Afghan war. A general reconstruction and renewal of the exposition "Your Motherland, sons" was carried out. Duty. Feat. Tragedy." National Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945. This exhibition was opened in 1992. By the end of the 90s, 600,000 visitors passed through its halls. The first "Afghan" exhibit came to the museum's funds back in 1982, while in 1999 there were about 12,000 of them [25].

During the entire period of its existence, military-patriotic education of youth remained an important area of activity of UUVA. A number of clubs for teenagers have been created at regional, city, and district organizations. In particular, in Svitlovodsk, Kirovohrad region (military-patriotic club "Pereval", 100 teenagers), in Cherkasy ("Vulkan" club, 500 teenagers), in Kyiv (club "School of Courage", 200 teenagers). On the initiative of the Union, the youth search associations "Search" (Zhytomyr) and "Pamyat" (Simferopol) were created and actively operate, which restore the names of the dead and missing, and respectfully rebury the remains of the fallen soldiers of the Great Patriotic War. In order to coordinate the patriotic education of youth, the All-

Ukrainian youth association "Future of Ukraine" was created at the initiative of UUVA [26, p. 9].

Considerable attention was paid to the preservation and development of business and humanitarian relations with organizations of war veterans of foreign countries. UUVA representatives took an active part in the work of the Coordinating Council of the Committee on the Affairs of Internationalist Soldiers under the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The union initiated the creation of the International Organization of Veterans of Foreign Wars and Local Conflicts "Fighting Brotherhood without Borders". Agreements on cooperation in the humanitarian sphere were signed with the organizations of veterans of the Afghan war in Moldova, Azerbaijan, as well as with the Cuban veterans' organization. The union cooperated with the international and National Committees of the Red Cross of Ukraine in propagandizing and spreading the ideals and norms of International Humanitarian Law, supported actions initiated by the Canadian government aimed at banning anti-personnel mines [26, p. 10].

The families of the fallen servicemen belong to the categories of the population of Ukraine most affected by the Afghan war. Most of the family members of the victims, primarily the parents, have not been able to overcome the psychological trauma they received. The financial support of the majority of the families of the victims remained at a level lower than the determined low-income limit. The Law of Ukraine "On the Status of War Veterans, Guarantees of Their Social Protection" approved the lowest level of benefits for the families of the victims. Thanks to the lobbying of the UUVA, additions and amendments were adopted, which provided a solution to the housing issue for the families of the deceased at the level of war veterans, and pension supplements were raised to the level of a participant in hostilities. In the Odesa region, the cities of Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Lutsk, Vinnytsia, and Cherkassy, thanks to the active actions of local organizations of the Union, the families of the deceased were exempted from paying for communal services and received pension supplements [25].

It should be noted that in the development of the Union there are not only achievements, but also certain problems. First of all, it is the UUVA's desire for complete dominance in the Afghan movement, the appearance among the leadership of the organization of a kind of "nomenclature", which during the 90s invariably held positions in the UUVA Presidium, property conflicts and the uncertainty of the status of a number of regional "Afghan" organizations. Thus, in the Lviv region, until 1999, UUVA operated only on the basis of one district and two departmental associations. During the 1990s, the Donetsk organization remained in opposition to the central leadership, which, according to the head of the USVA S. Chervonopyskyi, weakened the unity of the "Afghan" movement [26, p. 12].

### **1.3 Public organizations of victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant**

Veterans of the "peaceful atom" are liquidators and victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. Their organizations, since their inception, despite a certain interest in environmental issues, were mostly focused on the social, legal, and psychological protection of victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. "Chernobyl" organizations acted as a kind of trade union, trying to contribute to the solution of economic and medical problems not only through consultations with the government about the status of the liquidator and active participation in law-making activities, but also by holding mass protests against the restriction of Chernobyl legislation, against the reduction of expenses for overcoming the consequences of the accident .

On February 28, 1991, the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian SSR adopted the Law "On the Status and Social Protection of Citizens Affected by the Chernobyl Disaster." The Law defines the status of persons injured as a result of an accident, defines the amount of social protection for victims, the amount of compensation and benefits. Article 61 of the Law guaranteed preferences to public associations of "Chernobyl residents", which are exempt from taxation, and their enterprises and organizations - from income tax for the amount sent to these public associations for the

implementation of their statutory activities. Public organizations of victims of the Chernobyl disaster, their branches and enterprises were exempted from tax on import, export and customs duties for goods imported and exported in accordance with statutory activities [27]. Thus, public organizations of "Chernobyl residents" received unprecedented benefits that could contribute to the improvement of social protection for victims of the Chernobyl disaster. But the economic situation in Ukraine, which developed in the first years of independence, required Chernobyl organizations to intensify their activities to protect the rights of victims. In particular, on October 8, 1991, representatives of public organizations: the Inter-Republican Committee for the Social Protection of the Disabled, the Committee "Disabled of Chernobyl", the organizations "Veterans of Chornobyl", "Soyuz Chornobyl" and "Echoes of Chornobyl" created the strike committee "Chornobyl", whose representatives demanded from the Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine to fully implement the articles of the "Chernobyl" legislation. On November 25, 1991, the text of the demands of the participants of the founding conference "Soyuz Chornobyl Ukraine" (SChU) in connection with the transition to a market economy was sent to the Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Chernobyl disaster. The transition to a market economy in 1991, price increases, and the introduction of a coupon system effectively eliminated benefits for accident victims. The conference participants unanimously supported the following demands to the executive power: differentially increase the level of pensions for disabled liquidators of the accident at the ChNPP, as well as disabled people who were evacuated from the evacuation zone and who fell ill as a result of the accident; cancel the coupon system for all victims; find funds to compensate the cost of food products for patients with radiation sickness; issue interest-free loans to liquidators for the construction of individual houses, arrangement of garden plots, purchase of furniture [28, p. 37]. Yu. Andreev, the former liquidator of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, headed the "Soyuz Chornobyl of Ukraine".

During the years 1991-1994, the socio-economic situation and the state of health of the victims of the Chernobyl disaster continued to deteriorate, about which the



Ukrainian Charitable Union of Unions of Social Protection of the Disabled of Chernobyl informed the President, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine on September 1, 1994. According to the data of the public organization, since 1987, the death rate among liquidators of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant has increased by 6.8 times, among other categories of "Chernobyl residents" by 2.7-2.9 times. The reasons were named: rising prices and falling living standards; disappearance of free medicines from hospitals; the destruction of the health care system - the closure of rehabilitation centers for "Chernobyl residents" due to a lack of funding, the reduction of pensions for disabled people of Chernobyl; delay in payment of compensations and benefits. Thus, in January 1994, compared to 1990, the prices of goods and services increased by 11,807 times, and the pension of disabled liquidators by 1,424-2,746 times, as a result of which their purchasing power decreased by 4.3-8.3 times. At that time, the nominal salary of officials increased 3073 times [29, pp. 29-30].

Public organizations of "Chernobyl residents" performed an important function of public control, ensuring that the funds allocated for the implementation of Chernobyl programs were used as intended. At rallies, in statements and appeals to high-ranking state officials, representatives of public organizations pointed to the state's systematic non-fulfillment of Chernobyl legislation. At the same time, the Chernobyl residents found support from the Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Chernobyl disaster. Thus, in the statement that was adopted at a rally organized by the SChU on April 26, 1994, it was emphasized that the government should be considered guilty of the destruction of the "Chernobyl" legislation, which by decrees and decrees actually canceled the current Law "On the Status and Social Protection of Citizens Affected by as a result of the Chernobyl disaster". In 1992, a number of articles of the Law were fully or partially suspended. The government did not add 6 trillion krybs to the people of Chernobyl in the last quarter of 1993 - the first quarter of 1994. The authorities stopped paying compensation to the victims of the accident, in the absence of the necessary preferential places in sanatoriums and rest houses, the parents of "Chernobyl" were unable to rehabilitate their children [29, p. 49].

On October 21, 1994, the Minister of Finance P. Hermanchuk received official information from V. Yatsenko, the head of the Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Chernobyl disaster, which, in particular, stated: a phenomenon when Chernobyl funds are not used as intended, as a result of which Chernobyl residents receive their due payments late and irregularly. Thus, according to the notification of the Dolyna primary organization of the SChU of the Kirovohrad region, the funds for the payment of benefits and compensations are transferred from the region to the regional finance department irregularly. These funds, which the district finance department, according to the reports, transfers to the banks to organizations for the payment of compensation and benefits, go to the general card file, and the banks use the funds at their discretion to repay debts... In August 1994, compensation was paid only for the second half of 1993, and then only for half needs [30, p. 32].” In an appeal to the People's Deputy of Ukraine V. Durdynets on behalf of the residents of Chernobyl, the head of the Valley Organization of the SChU, P. Kolyuzhenko, stated: "We were not sent to the crucible of Chernobyl against our will. Therefore, the state must take care of us and fully compensate for the damage to our health" [30, p. 35].

On December 15, 1994, "Soyuz Chornobyl Ukraine" informed the head of the Commission V. Yatsenko about a gross violation of "Chernobyl legislation". In the Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Rivne, and Volyn regions, housing built at state expense for displaced persons was provided to persons who did not have the status of accident victims. The Commission appealed to the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine with a request to verify the information and take the necessary measures [31, p. 3]. On January 19, 1996, the SChU appealed to the President, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine with a message about the critical situation regarding the implementation of the Chernobyl programs. In the last quarter of 1995, no compensation was issued to the victims; partially paid pensions to the disabled; medical centers lack medicines and food. The cause of this situation, according to the public organization, was the actions of the Cabinet of Ministers, which sent more than 8 trillion. krb from the accounts of the Chernobyl Fund to finance urgent budget needs [32, p. 4]. At the same time, the costs of benefits and compensation for victims of

Chernobyl, provided for by the state budget for 1995, amounted to only 54.7 trillion. krb., while according to the current "Chernobyl" legislation, budget expenditures should reach 158.6 trillion. krb [33, p. 54]. When considering the State Budget for 1996, the Commission on the Chernobyl Disaster proposed to provide for 100 percent financing of Chernobyl programs, but its proposal was not supported and the financing of social protection of the population affected by the Chernobyl disaster did not exceed 39 percent of that provided for by the current legislation [34, p. 33].

Attempts to misuse "Chernobyl" funds were characteristic not only of executive structures. Thus, in July 1996, the Commission on the Chernobyl Disaster appealed to the President of Ukraine with a request to allow the Government to allocate 10 billion KRB from the Chernobyl Fund. for the construction of the Cathedral of the Archangel Michael in Darnytsia. In a letter to Metropolitan Volodymyr of Kyiv and All Ukraine, the head of the Commission, V. Yatsenko, emphasized that the Church's activities to perpetuate the memory of the dead became a consolation for those who suffered as a result of the accident, and the temple complex in Darnytsia became a real shrine of "Chernobyl residents" [34, p. 92].

The state's chronic non-fulfillment of its obligations to "Chernobyl" generated distrust in the executive structures. Thus, in January 1996, V. Legkiy - the head of the International Charitable Fund for Assistance to the Disabled of Chornobyl and I. Antoshchenko - the head of the Ukrainian Charitable Fund for the Social Protection of the Disabled of Chornobyl and their equals sent a letter to the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine O. Moroz, in which The Ministry for the Protection of the Population from the Chernobyl Disaster was recognized as unable to fulfill its duties, as it uses the limited budget funds for the wrong purpose. The heads of public organizations believed that it was necessary to create the State Council of Ukraine for social protection of the population affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The newly created structure was supposed to determine the priority in the financing of Chernobyl programs, which of the ministries and departments would implement them. Funding decisions are made collegially by all interested parties - the chairman of the Council, representatives of ministries, trade unions and "Chernobyl"

organizations. In response, the head of the Commission on the Chernobyl Disaster V.

Yatsenko noted that the global nature of the problems of liquidation of the consequences of the accident logically led to the emergence of a body in the structure of the Government that would ensure coordination, organization and control over the implementation of the entire complex of problems and measures to overcome the Chernobyl disaster. "You propose to return the situation to 1990 in order to spread the Chernobyl funds across ministries and departments," noted V. Yatsenko [34, pp. 1-3].

Therefore, the complex socio-economic situation that developed in the context of the crisis of the Ukrainian economy, the inflated nature of benefits and compensations, which could only be fulfilled by a state with a prosperous economy, contributed to the strengthening of the attention of public organizations of "Chernobyl residents" to the preferences guaranteed by Article 61 of the Law "On status and social protection of citizens affected by the Chernobyl disaster". In turn, the Ukrainian Government and the Verkhovna Rada, in the face of a chronic shortage of funds in the budget, sought to limit the number of benefits as much as possible, which, thanks to imperfect legislation, could cause economic damage to the state. Thus, on January 1, 1995, the Law of Ukraine "On Taxation of Enterprise Profits" came into effect. Article 10 of the Law did not provide for the exemption from taxation, payment of duties and deductions to the budget of public associations specified in Article 61 of the Law "On the Status and Social Protection of Citizens Affected by the Chernobyl Disaster". Regarding the excise tax, it was taxed on goods imported into the territory of Ukraine, which were included in the list of excise goods. The legal department of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine noted that the legislation does not provide for the exemption of any subjects of entrepreneurial activity from paying it [33, p. 110].

The resolution of the Law "On Taxation of Enterprise Profits" enabled the State Tax Inspectorate (STI) to strengthen control over the economic side of the activities of "Chernobyl" organizations. Thus, the STI for the city of Kyiv informed the Commission on the Chernobyl disaster that during 1994 - the first half of 1995, the public association "Chernobyl-Nadia" did not create an enterprise with the status of a legal entity. At the same time, the public organization was engaged in commercial

activities without paying excise duty and value added tax. "Chernobyl-Nadia" received more than 2 trillion krb for the operations carried out. Of them, more than 1.5 trillion. krb was transferred to commercial structures without returning the proceeds to the account of the association for further use of these funds for charitable purposes. In fact, the public organization facilitated the customs clearance of goods for commercial structures, abusing its status, which provided for charitable activities for citizens affected by the accident at the Chernobyl NPP [31, pp. 59-60].

The head of the State Customs Committee of Ukraine, L. Derkach, informed the Prime Minister of Ukraine Ye. Marchuk in a memo that in 1995, tax-free cargo worth more than 140 trillion passed through Kyiv customs alone. krb., which belonged to enterprises and organizations created by associations of "Chernobyl residents", which almost tripled the expenses of the state Chernobyl fund for the same year. The scheme of illegal enrichment was as follows. The company "joins" the newly created "Chernobyl" organization and transfers funds to the fund created during the organization. The fund holds general meetings, in which several people - founders of the fund, including a representative of the benefactor company - participate. Funds that increased due to the import and sale of tax-free excise goods in Ukraine were sent as "charitable" aid to the founders of the fund, who shared them among themselves [32, p. 2].

The situation with benefits for charitable "Chernobyl" associations did not suit one of the most massive organizations of victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant - "Soyuz Chornobyl of Ukraine". In his address to L. Derkach, the head of the SChU Yu. Andreev noted that out of 140 trillion. Krb., which did not reach the country's budget in 1995 due to the use of customs benefits by "Chernobyl" associations, the fate of the SChU is only 2 trillion. krb At the same time, the majority of public organizations (269 out of 375), created by "Chernobyl" at the beginning of 1996, are collective members of the SChU. The reasons for the criminalization of the Chernobyl movement, according to Yu. Andreev, lie in imperfect Ukrainian legislation, in particular, in the hasty resolution of the Law of Ukraine "On Unification of Citizens". "The populism of this Law was based on political calculations - to fill the

political and social vacuum faster with new parties and public organizations. That is, regardless of the number of members, all associations received equal rights". [33, p. 143] Pseudo-Chernobyl organizations, which included 3-10 people, obtained equal privileges with authoritative, mass structures. "The organization is obliged to have branches in all regions, cities, and districts of the country. It should be able to identify the needy and, after assessing their financial situation, provide assistance. Only in this case, in conditions of reduced funding of state social programs, their effectiveness will be preserved and increased thanks to the addition of state programs with charity" - believed Yu. Andreev [33, p. 144]. Therefore, the SChU believed that the state structures brought the use of benefits to the point of absurdity, and on the other hand, made them unattainable for mass organizations. In order to restore state control over the use of benefits and ease the situation of the majority of victims, it is necessary to give preference to massive all-Ukrainian and international organizations [32, p. 1]. In addition, during 1993-1995, the SChU repeatedly advocated the reduction of unreasonably high pensions (40-80 million krb) for a limited number of disabled people from Chernobyl, which caused further confrontation with a number of regional organizations. Thus, the Kherson Regional Foundation for the Disabled People of Chernobyl accused the SChU of seeking to monopolize the Chernobyl movement, which created "conditions for new abuses [32, p. 16]."

The conflict between the all-Ukrainian organization "Soyuz Chornobyl Ukrainy" and local associations of "Chernobyl residents" did not contribute to the development of a consolidated position at the time of the adoption of amendments and additions to the Law "On the Status and Social Protection of Citizens Affected by the Chernobyl Disaster". It should be noted that the position of the SChU was supported by the Commission on the Chernobyl Disaster, which expressed concern about the situation with non-implementation of the "Chernobyl" legislation. In an appeal to the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, it was noted that "the analysis of the application of Article 61 shows that the customs and tax authorities ignore the application of the fourth part of this Article, which stipulates that all funds generated at the expense of the specified tax benefits are used by the specified public organizations and their funds

exclusively for the organization and provision of social, material, medical assistance to citizens who suffered as a result of the Chernobyl disaster". The Commission proposed a new wording of Article 61, according to which all-Ukrainian and international associations of citizens affected by the Chernobyl disaster, which have branches in most regions, whose statutory activities provide for the provision of assistance to victims, are exempt from all types of taxation, payment of duties and deductions up to budget, and their enterprises and organizations - from income tax in the amount of the amount sent to carry out their statutory activities. Provided that at least 75 percent of the victims are members of these associations, enterprises and organizations [33, p. 114].

On April 24, 1996, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Law "On Amendments and Supplements to the Law of Ukraine "On the Status and Social Protection of Citizens Affected by the Chernobyl Disaster." Article 61 was published by the Commission on the Chernobyl Disaster. On May 21, 1996, the Prime Minister of Ukraine Ye. Marchuk, in a letter addressed to President L. Kuchma, requested to use the right of veto and not to sign the Law, returning it for revision. According to E. Marchuk, the new wording of Article 61 leads to the loss of state budget funds due to non-payment of taxes; the appearance on the domestic market of cheap and high-quality foreign products, which undermined the position of the domestic producer; almost all excise goods will be imported by enterprises and firms created by "Chernobyl" organizations. A new version of Article 61 was proposed in the following version: "Taxation benefits for associations of citizens who suffered as a result of the Chernobyl disaster are established by laws on taxation" [33, pp. 125-126].

On May 24, the President returned the Law "On Amendments and Supplements to the Law of Ukraine "On the Status and Social Protection of Citizens Affected by the Chernobyl Disaster" with comments for re-consideration by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Despite V. Yatsenko's attempts to justify the position of the Commission on the Chernobyl Disaster, the fact that the number of all-Ukrainian and international "Chernobyl" organizations is limited to only two - "Soyuz Chornobyl Ukraine" and "Soyuz Chornobyl", and "to establish effective control over the activities of these

public organizations "unions are not a difficult matter", [33, p. 131] the new version of the Law and Article 61 was adopted on June 6, 1996. However, the wishes of the Commission were taken into account by Resolution No. 1279 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated October 22, 1996, which singled out two public organizations of victims of the Chernobyl disaster: the international organization "Soyuz Chornobyl" and the All-Ukrainian Union of Chornobyl Ukraine, which acquired the right to tax and customs benefits for their activities enterprises and organizations whose founders were these associations and in which the victims of the Chernobyl disaster make up 75 percent of the total number of members of the associations who work at these enterprises [35]. The reason for this decision was that the above-mentioned associations had an extensive regional structure, united in their ranks hundreds of thousands of Chernobyl residents, actively cooperated with the Parliament of Ukraine in resolving the legal status of the liquidators and victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, received significant amounts of humanitarian aid from international charitable organizations.

At the same time, each of the organizations focuses on certain types and forms of assistance in solving Chernobyl issues. The international organization "Soyuz Chornobyl" with its center in Kyiv united more than a million people from 8 republics of the former USSR, with branches in Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Australia, Cyprus and the USA. All associations have a common goal - social protection of victims from the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Organizations of the former Soviet republics consist primarily of liquidators, evacuees and those who still live in contaminated territories. Branches of "Soyuz Chornobyl", which are located outside the former USSR, are organizations that use the help of international charitable funds to provide humanitarian, social, economic and medical assistance to victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant [36, p. 233]. The leaders of the organization share the opinion that solving the problems that arose after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is possible only through the combined efforts of all mankind, since the radioactive trace of the accident was found thousands of kilometers from the epicenter. As doctor D. Tognoni noted at public hearings in Vienna, timed to



the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, "No one lives far enough from a nuclear power plant [36, p. 14]."

In accordance with the charter, in February 1990, a children's fund was created within the structure of the "Soyuz Chornobyl", which, according to the adopted provision, aimed to ensure the implementation of the program for rescuing children who suffered as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation.[37, p. 19 -20] With the support of the fund, thousands of children of liquidators and those living in radiation-contaminated areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia had the opportunity to recover in Italy, Austria, France, Ireland, and other countries.

"Soyuz Chernobyl of Ukraine" was a mass public organization of Chernobyl residents of Ukraine, to which in the late 90s of the 20th century. included about 420,000 victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and which had 518 branches in all regions. Defending the right of victims to receive benefits and preferences in accordance with current legislation, primarily the Law "On the Status and Social Protection of Citizens Victims of the Chernobyl Disaster", the association used both methods of cooperation and direct pressure on the Government of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada . For example, in February 1992, the government of V. Fokin prepared a draft law on a moratorium on all articles of "Chernobyl" legislation, motivating the decision by the difficult economic situation in Ukraine, which led to the first all-Ukrainian action to protect the rights of Chernobyl residents, in which about 4 thousand activists of the organization took part . The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine by a majority of votes, in the presence of a delegation from Chernobyl, adopted a resolution on the inadmissibility of the moratorium. During the years 1992-2000, the "Soyuz Chernobyl of Ukraine" held 75 protest actions, including eight mass demonstrations on Khreshchatyk, demanding compliance with the current legislation in providing assistance to the victims [38].

The rallying into public organizations of the most vulnerable segments of the population during the economic crisis (war and labor veterans, war invalids, victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant) was aimed at the realization of a twofold task: to use the authority of public organizations in society for constructive

cooperation with institutions of legislative and executive power ( including with local self-government bodies) and, if necessary, to introduce pressure methods (meetings, pickets, hunger strikes, etc.) to protect the interests of organization members. In order to coordinate actions and participate in the political life of the country, these organizations declared their support for the Ukrainian Justice Party (UPS), which was created in December 1992. The main goal of its activities was the effective and concrete protection of the interests of, first of all, veterans of the Great Patriotic War, participants in the war in Afghanistan and military conflicts in other foreign countries, veterans of the Armed Forces and labor, liquidators of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the disabled, and other least socially protected citizens of Ukraine [39, p. 1].

The lack of broad electoral support for the Ukrainian Justice Party during the elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in 1994 led to the search for new forms of cooperation between veteran and "Chernobyl" associations. On October 4, 1996, USVA, SCU and OVU organized a joint picketing of the Verkhovna Rada with the demand to fully ensure the social rights of veterans and liquidators of the accident at the Chornobyl NPP [40, p. 3]. In December 1996, the presidium of the OVU Council accepted the proposal of UOVA and SChU to create a single block of organizations for the purpose of joint actions to solve social problems, to establish justice for veterans of all categories and victims of the Chernobyl disaster [40, p. 16]. In January 1997, the charter of the new association was adopted at the constituent conference. The purpose of the union was to consolidate the efforts of the SChU, UOVA and OVU for a wide, more active use of existing potential opportunities in ensuring full social and fair protection of disabled people, veterans of labor and military service, people who suffered as a result of the Chernobyl disaster, families of people who died and died from wounds and illnesses received while performing official duties, other elderly people, pensioners. The main task of the union was to promote the most complete implementation of the principle of social justice in the implementation of the social policy of the state. To fulfill the task, the members of the union had the right to

participate in political activities and hold mass protest events against the restriction of the interests of all low-income citizens of Ukraine [40, pp. 19-20].

#### **1.4 Activities of the Red Cross Society of Ukraine**

The Red Cross Society of Ukraine remained the largest humanitarian organization in Ukraine. On December 10, 1991, the Ukrainian Red Cross left the Union of Red Cross and Crescent Societies of the former USSR. On January 19, 1992, at the second Plenum of the Union's Executive Committee, the resolution "On the reorganization of the Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR" was adopted. It was decided that the basis for the existence of the Union of Societies, as a single national organization, does not exist. All means and material property of the Union of Societies were recognized as the collective property of the national societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent [41, pp. 46-47].

The declaration of independence of the Red Cross Society of Ukraine (RCSU) made it possible to make additions to the Statute and fully implement the fundamental principles on which this international movement is based, namely: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntariness, unity and universality. Protection of human life and dignity was declared the main mission of the Society. By the decree of the President of Ukraine dated October 28, 1992, the TCH of Ukraine was recognized as the only Red Cross Society in Ukraine, operating throughout Ukraine, the main task of which is to assist the state authorities of Ukraine in their activities in the humanitarian sphere [42, p. 2].

The gaining of independence by Ukraine contributed to the liberation of the Society from ideological pressure and the guardianship of Communist Party centralism, which made it possible to restore the independent status of the organization, which, recognizing the laws of its country and helping the government in its humanitarian activities, remains faithful to the principles of the international Red Cross movement. On September 29, 1993, the International Committee of the Red Cross officially recognized the Red Cross Society of Ukraine as a full member of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement [43, p. 32]. The difficult

economic situation in Ukraine in the first years of independence complicated the activities of local Red Cross organizations, led to a significant decrease in a number of quantitative indicators of activity compared to the 80s of the 20th century. If at the beginning of 1987 the number of members of the Red Cross was almost 26.5 million people, then at the beginning of 1994 it was only 12.5 million. The number of primary centers decreased - from more than 69 thousand to 45 thousand [44, pp. 1-2 ].

The main reason for the decrease in the social activity of the population of Ukraine and the decrease in the volume of activities of primary organizations was the sharp decline in production and the reduction of jobs. Commercial structures created at that time did not seek to financially and materially support charitable organizations. During 1992-1994, most of the heads of regional committees of the RCS of Ukraine worked on public grounds [45, p. 2]. Despite the unstable financial situation of the organization, the decrease in the number of primary centers and the numerical composition of the organization, the RCS of Ukraine managed to preserve personnel potential and infrastructure, establish constructive cooperation with executive and legislative authorities, and initiate a number of new projects.

Starting from 1992, the government of Ukraine began to provide funds for the maintenance of the patronage sisters of charity of the Red Cross. But in connection with the rapid growth of prices and wages, these funds turned out to be insufficient. Therefore, during the first half of the 90s of the 20th century. a significant part of the funding of the charity program was taken over by the International Federation of the Red Cross, the national Red Cross Societies of Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and the Netherlands. This made it possible to generally preserve the staff of the Sisters of Mercy, whose help was so needed for the infirm, the elderly, and the disabled. The Sisters of Mercy cared for lonely elderly patients, organized the delivery of medicines and food products, prepared food for the infirm and sick, and helped place pensioners in boarding houses [46, p. 1]. In October 1995, at a joint panel of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population of Ukraine, and the Presidium of the RCSof Ukraine, it was emphasized that "problems of medical care and social assistance to single disabled elderly citizens will be successfully solved under the

condition of combining the efforts of employees of health care, social protection and the Red Cross in a single complex [47, p. 44]."

Changes in the organization's income structure required rational use of available resources. If in the second half of the 80s, the activities of local organizations of the Red Cross were provided mainly thanks to membership fees, then in 1995, the expenses of the average regional TCH organization were financed thanks to revenues from the state budget of Ukraine by 57 percent; aid of the International RCS Federation - by 23 percent; at the expense of membership fees - by 20 percent [48, p. 4]. The creation of medical and social assistance rooms and medical and social centers became a new form of assistance to the disadvantaged. If in 1993 the patronage service of the Red Cross included 149 medical and social assistance rooms [49, p. 4], then in 1996 there were 24 medical and social centers and 223 rooms [46, p. 42-43].

With the assistance of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the financial support of the national Societies of foreign countries, the patronage service during 1996-2000. received 4,809 medical kits and 104 kits for medical and social centers for the total amount of almost 8 million hryvnias [50, pp. 1-2].

With the aim of reviving past traditions, the organization of the Society, together with local authorities, institutions of social protection of the population and health care, organized the work of hospitals, branches and wards of the Red Cross. As of August 2000, the hospital for cancer patients in the city of Korosten, Zhytomyr Region, and the hospital for the treatment of lonely elderly people in the village of Saint of Khmelnytskyi region, humanitarian department "Nadia", for the treatment of lonely people in Kyiv, geriatric department of medical and social care in Mukacheve. Wards of the Red Cross are open in the central district hospitals of the towns of Bobrynets and Novgorodka, Kirovohrad Region, and Kiveriv, Volyn Region. In this way, inpatient medical care was provided to residents of remote areas from medical centers [51, pp. 9-10].

From the moment of official recognition as a full member of the world Red Cross movement, the international activity of the RCS of Ukraine intensified. The most actively developed international programs of the Society, the implementation of which

made it possible to use the financial and technical assistance of international donors. Special dynamism in the implementation of international programs was achieved in the second half of the 90s of the 20th century, when the RCS of Ukraine participated in the implementation of about 80 targeted complex programs, the total cost of which was more than 30 million hryvnias. The main ones were medical and social assistance to the most socially vulnerable citizens, prevention and provision of educational, material and social support to patients with tuberculosis, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, assistance to victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and natural disasters, assistance to migrants and to the deported peoples of Crimea, dissemination of knowledge on international humanitarian law and assistance to state bodies in its implementation in the country [47, p. 3].

During the first half of the 90s of the 20th century. the committees and organizations of the RCS of Ukraine took a direct part in the reception and distribution of humanitarian aid that came to Ukraine from abroad. Missions of the national Red Cross Societies of France, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and Italy worked in the National Committee of RCS of Ukraine to promptly resolve issues related to the coordination of aid and its fair distribution. On February 6, 1992, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the composition of the commission on issues of coordination, reception, transportation, protection and distribution of humanitarian aid, which included a representative of the RCS of Ukraine. In 1992-1993, RCS of Ukraine accepted and distributed more than 6,650 tons of food products, medicines and medical equipment worth 26.3 million US dollars [52, pp. 6-7].

In July 1992, the Search Service of the RCS of Ukraine started working on the territory of Ukraine and abroad for compatriots, as well as foreign citizens who lost contact as a result of armed conflicts and other extreme situations in the world. The priority direction of search work has become assistance to citizens in the search for documents confirming their stay in forced labor, concentration camps, ghettos, and captivity during the Second World War. During 1993, a special order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine recognized the program of the service and approved its allocation from the state budget. In 1993 alone, service employees considered 6,773 appeals from

citizens and institutions. As a result of search activities, the fate of 189 people was determined. With the assistance of the Red Cross, in March 1993, V. Nazarov returned to his homeland (Donetsk region), who had been a prisoner of the Afghan Mujahideen for almost 9 years [50, p. 13]. In total, during 1992-1996, 33,000 appeals from citizens of Ukraine and more than 5,000 from abroad were considered [46, p. 17].

Despite the financing problems, the Republican program "Chernobyl" continued to be implemented. Thus, in 1993, in Zhytomyr region, mobile laboratories of the Red Cross examined 1,309 settlements and 23,106 objects, on which 63,035 measurements were made [53, p. 29]. When the permissible levels of accumulation of radionuclides were exaggerated, adults and children were sent to the regional endocrinological center, for rehabilitation in children's camps and sanatoriums.

During 1991-1996, the society's activities were aimed at ensuring organizational development and strengthening potential, preserving and improving the system of providing targeted assistance to socially vulnerable segments of the population, preparing for assistance in emergency situations, strengthening the role of local Red Cross organizations in the further humanization of society. RCS of Ukraine took care of the disabled, lonely elderly patients, orphans, helped alleviate the suffering of victims of natural disasters, disasters, and armed conflicts not only in Ukraine, but also abroad.

The society cooperated with social protection departments in the regions, organizations of war veterans, the Ukrainian Union of Veterans of Afghanistan, "Soyuz Chornobyl", which contributed to the improvement of medical and social assistance to the most vulnerable sections of the population of Ukraine in the conditions of the socio-economic crisis. During the 90s of the XX century. medical and social assistance was provided annually to 49,000 war and labor disabled people, 1.2 thousand disabled Afghans and widows of fallen soldiers [54, p. 13].

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