



Anatoly, who is 10 but is the size of a toddler, has cerebral palsy and has been abandoned by his family. 'He is dying,' said a nurse at the orphanage

Ukrainian orphanages 'are starving disabled children'

Daniel Foggo and Martin Foley Kiev

CLIMB the stairs of the orphanage at Torez, Ukraine, pass through a hazy cloud of smoke packed with children and there, by the window, you will find a cot from which a little boy called Anatoly stares up at you. His beautiful, long-lashed eyes are bright. His prospects could scarcely be bleaker.



About 12 of the 100 children in the Torez orphanage die each year. The director denies there is any starvation

Torez is as far from an ideal world as it is possible to imagine. Opposite Anatoly lies Maxim, seven years old and equally starved. The veins stand out on his hand, which is clasped around his throat as if he is trying to extinguish his own suffering.

us with food that is more absorbent for them." Other westerners with medical knowledge are in no doubt about what is happening. Johann Valanota, a clinical-care nurse, and Christine Haglund, a nutritionist, have visited Torez in the past and judged the children to be suffering from malnutrition.

the only concern about how Ukraine's 55 "invalid orphanages" are run. Three former residents have told of abuse they suffered at the hands of staff at other such institutions. Maxim Melechyk, a 20-year-old cerebral palsy sufferer who grew up in orphanages after being abandoned at two months old, said: "The last orphanage I was in was so terrible I couldn't have imagined it existed. People in the ministry of social policy have told me that if I speak out I will be physically injured, but it's something I have to do for the children who are still suffering in the orphanages."

Children with cerebral palsy often need more help to eat than the hand-pressed staff can provide. In severe cases, feeding by tube may be necessary. Teresa Filimon, who runs a US-based charity that aids orphanages in Ukraine, said: "I have watched them feed the children in Torez. They just spooned in a soupy mixture which then falls out of the child's mouth before they move on to the next."

take control of it and spend it on themselves." Some attempts to adopt children from Torez have ended in rejection. But a few children have found salvation. Anna Rundall, from California, adopted a seven-year-old girl, Kori, who has Down's syndrome, from Torez last October. Rundall said Kori weighed 1 stone, 2lb when she collected her. In the three months since arriving in America she has gained 10lb.

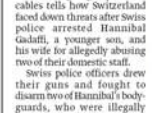
HIS HAND IS CLASPED AROUND HIS THROAT AS IF TO EXTINGUISH HIS SUFFERING

Libya froths at plundering by junior Gadaffis

Leaked US cables reveal resentment in the supposedly stable country of the ruling clan's greed, writes Michael Sheridan

THE violence and corruption of members of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's family have made Libya a gangster state with a worse record of governance than Egypt or Tunisia, according to leaked American diplomatic cables. The documents reveal previously undisclosed details of how family greed, rivalry and enmities have overwhelmed British and American efforts to normalise relations with Libya since it decided to abandon nuclear weapons and renounce terrorism.

His influence over two dominant firms, the state-owned National Oil Corporation, a trusted regime figure named Shukri Ghanem. The cable quotes friends of Ghanem saying Gaddafi's sons were "undisciplined thugs" whom "no one could tame". Gaddafi is focused on the appearance of reform, a cable said, but Ghanem believed there would be "no meaningful reform possible" in the leader's lifetime.



Muattassim Gaddafi, top, and Hannibal, his brother



Muattassim Gaddafi, top, and Hannibal, his brother

One intriguing sequence of cables tells how Switzerland faced down threats after Swiss police arrested Hannibal Gaddafi, a younger son, and his wife for allegedly abusing two of their domestic staff. Swiss police officers drew their guns and fought to disarm Hannibal's bodyguards, who were illegally carrying pistols and attacked them when they entered his suite at the five-star President Wilson Hotel in Geneva. The police found Hannibal hiding in a bedroom with six bodyguards. He was taken away in an armoured Mercedes.

Libya has been keen to co-operate with the West against the Gadaffi clan, which threatens its regime. It is also slowly fulfilling its pledge to dismantle all its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons facilities, although the cables chronicle endless obstructions. The cables report "visceral hatred" for the Gadaffi clan. The West may be thinking again about placing its bets on the stability of his regime.

The longest tunnel of its kind in Europe

Each section is 650ft long and weighs 70,000 tons

Eight-lane motorway and a high speed rail line

40,000 ships pass through the strait annually

Submerged 40ft into the sea bed

£4.3bn Cost of Fehmarn tunnel. Completed by 2020

22 miles

11 miles

Denmark: Rødbyhavn, Puttgarden

Germany: Fehmarn Island

Danes to build £4bn sea tunnel to Germany

Bojan Pancevski Brussels DENMARK gave the go-ahead last week to a \$4.1 billion, 11-mile tunnel under the sea to Germany that will cut the journey time from Hamburg to Copenhagen by more than an hour.

more sound. It is also expected to be slightly cheaper than a bridge. The Baltic crossing is served only by a ferry. The project, which will connect Puttgarden on the German island of Fehmarn with Rødby on the island of Lolland in Denmark, will be the biggest of its kind in Europe since the completion of the 31-mile Channel tunnel in 1994.

operate one of Europe's safest and most modern tunnels for both trains and cars, which will bring northern Europe and Scandinavia even closer together," said Leo Larsen, chief executive of Femern, the state-owned Danish company that designed the project.

Engineers chose the tunnel in preference to a bridge on the grounds that it will be safer and environmentally