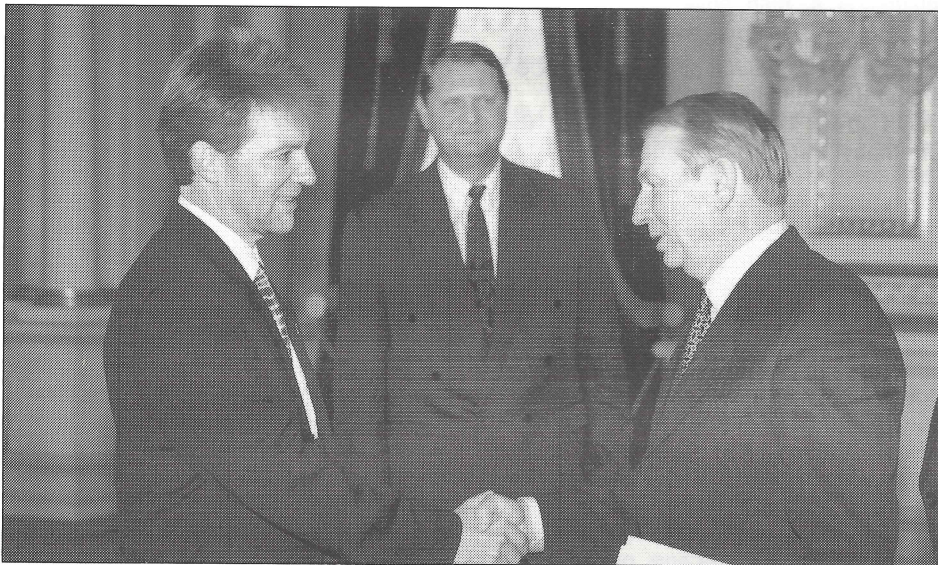




NEW AMBASSADORS IN KYIV AND OTTAWA

On January 23, 1996, Canadian Ambassador Christopher Westdal became the first foreign Head of Diplomatic Mission to present credentials to President Leonid Kuchma this year. On February 14, 1996, newly-appointed Ukrainian Ambassador Volodymyr Furkalo presented Letters of Credence to Governor-General Roméo LeBlanc.



ANATOLIY BOVT

Ambassador Christopher Westdal receives warm welcome from Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma.

He continued, "I am guided by the vision of a strong and secure Ukraine with room to grow and prosper, and to fulfill the rich promise of its new, precious freedom."

Ukraine's President was clearly impressed with the new Canadian ambassador, and after formally welcoming the representative of one of Ukraine's special partners, said, "I am pleased to welcome a truly exceptional individual who has learned the Ukrainian language in a short time." He added with a smile, "You could be an example to those in Ukraine who have yet to learn our language."

Clearly warming to the man, after the formalities, President Kuchma spent 45 minutes chatting with Ambassador Westdal in a private wing of the palace, much longer than ceremony requires.

Ambassador Westdal is no stranger to Ukrainian affairs. During his speech he explained that, having grown up in Swan Lake, Manitoba, he met many Canadians

CANADA'S NEW AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN KYIV

Canada's new ambassador to Ukraine made quite an impressive public entry to Kyiv. The youthful looking 48-year-old Christopher Westdal, who has no Ukrainian roots, spoke Ukrainian while presenting credentials to President Leonid Kuchma.

The Mariyinsky Palace looked majestic for the occasion, gently dusted with fresh snow.

During the ceremony, President Kuchma was flanked by First Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Buteyko and Ambassador-designate to Canada Volodymyr Furkalo. Shaking President Kuchma's hand, Ambassador Westdal said, "Mr. President, I have arrived in Ukraine with the enthusiasm and

determination to do my best to serve Canada's interest in Ukrainian success."



ANATOLIY BOVT

Ambassador Westdal and Madam Sheila Hayes (centre) pose with President Leonid Kuchma, together with their Canadian Embassy staff and Ukrainian officials. Second from right is Volodymyr Furkalo, whose appointment as Ambassador to Canada was announced the following day.

L-r: Joan Eremenko (Attaché / Consular & Admin); Lillian Zadravetz (First Sec. / Immigrat.); Emil Baran (Counsellor / Technical Assistance), Roman Waschuk (Counsellor & Consul / Political); Dennis Goresky (Counsellor / Trade); Madam Hayes; Amb. Westdal; President Kuchma; Anton Buteiko (First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine); Amb. Furkalo; George Cherniavski (Chief of Presidential Protocol).