



The main objective of the new Centre will be to assist Ukrainians as well as foreign citizens in adopting orphans. A data bank on orphans will be created at the Centre and all information will be made available to interested families in Ukraine and abroad.

The Centre is expected to provide future parents of adopted children with necessary documentation required by guardian institutions in order to process adoption, especially in cases with foreign citizens. It will also monitor legal procedures through the whole period of adoption.

PROGRAM FOR SEA ECOLOGY PROTECTION

Kyiv, March 19, 1996... Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) extended until July 1 the period of preparation of a national program for ecological protection of the Azov and Black Seas. According to VR Environmental Protection Committee Chair Heorhiy Fylypchuk, more time was needed to determine how much funding the program will require. Fylypchuk also said the biggest environmental harm to the two seas is being caused by the Black Sea Fleet, which annually dumps 4.8mn cubic metres of contaminated water into the ocean. (EE)

JOHN DEERE'S IN UKRAINE

April 22, 1996 ... A U.S. program will enable Ukraine to purchase 1,000 harvesters made by well-known US farm equipment manufacturer John Deere. Under an agreement signed with Ukraine in March 1996, the first 500 harvesting combines are to be supplied by the end of 1996, with the remainder in 1997. The US Export-Import Bank provided a US \$200 mln. loan for the project.

The Machine-Building and Military Conversion Ministry also released a list of enterprises to produce spare parts for John Deere combines, including Kharkiv's Malysheva Plant, Kherson Tractor Plant, Berdiansk Tractor Plant, and the Bila Tserkva Agricultural Equipment Plant. John Deere experts are to inspect each production line for final approval. (EE)

UKRAINE'S FARMERS GO ELECTRONIC

April 29, 1996... Funded by the US Department of Agriculture, a technical assistance program to develop a system for analyzing Ukrainian agricultural markets will be presented June 18, 1996. Initiated back in

June 1995, the US \$1.2 mln. project will be funded until 1997 on the assumption that afterwards Ukraine will run the new system independently.

The system will be a Ukrainian version of the American 'Market News' program, which has run since 1946 in accordance with the Agricultural Products Trade Act. This act allocates funds for collecting and distributing information so that the needs of consumers can be predicted and satisfied, provides financial assistance to farmers, and ensures there is a balance between the production and consumption of agricultural products. (EE)

ROYAL CROWN COLA HITS SHELVES IN UKRAINE

March 13, 1996... RC Cola is expected to hit shelves of Kyiv, and challenge its two U.S. rivals Coca-Cola and Pepsi for a share of Ukraine's soft drink lovers.

"Ukraine has huge market potential, and there are simply not enough soft drink choices," said Alexander Kovaler, vice president in charge of the region.

With Coke having begun bottling its products in conjunction with the Kolos brewery in Lviv less than two years ago, Royal Crown may not be too far behind. RC came to Ukraine in late 1994 and met with several existing They began forming partnerships with Chernihiv and a factory in Uzhorod, which is currently producing Rio Cola and Rata Crystall soda water. It worked by selling them concentrates for their beverages. This gave them an opportunity to evaluate the factories' operations.

The food and beverage market for Ukraine is expected to be one of the most lucrative markets of the future. With Ukraine's 52 million people, industry analysts are comparing its potential to that of France.

According to Gerko Pietzsch, a representative for Bush Boake Allen, a British company that sells drink concentrates, the Ukrainian market shows signs of acceleration due to the privatization of formerly state-owned beverage companies. (Kiev Post)

BUSINESS AND SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT

REGINA FIRM PLANS TO REHABILITATE SUMY OIL FIELD

May 7, 1996... A Regina-based company plans to increase the recovery rate of an oil field in northeast Ukraine by as much as four times

using Saskatchewan's horizontal drilling technology.

Wayne Goranson, president of Lateral Vector Resources Ltd., said that the Bubrektivsky deposit in Sumy Oblast currently has a recovery rate of 6.6 percent, but this could be increased to 20-25 percent at minimal cost. He said Lateral Vector plans to rehabilitate the existing wells in the field by converting them from conventional infill to horizontal drilling. Under this technology, the well is started above the productive zone, then slanted to extend several hundred metres horizontally through the reservoir itself. "You expose that much more surface area of the reservoir at minimal cost," he explained.

Saskatchewan and Ukraine signed an agreement to share horizontal drilling technology during the visit of Premier Roy Romanow to Ukraine last October. Goranson was among the oil and gas executives who accompanied Romanow on that trip and subsequently signed a letter of protocol with UkrNafta for the field.

Goranson says estimates of the field's reserves amount to over 300 million barrels (42 million metric tons). He says that, depending upon when Lateral Vector is registered as a joint venture and obtains the license for the field, work on it could begin in six months time. Goranson added that Ukraine provided excellent prospects.

"There is going to be a huge opportunity for Canadian firms there, if they wish to take advantage of it," he said. (Ukrainian News)

ALBERTA OIL, MINERAL FIRMS CASH IN ON UKRAINIAN TIES

April 20, 1996... Five companies are pumping approximately 3,000 barrels of oil a day out of Ukraine and three companies are exploring for diamonds.

Four of the five Canadian oil companies already operating in Ukraine are based in Calgary: Epic Energy, Ukran Oil, Pennerex, United Kyiv Resources and Ukrainian Capital Equities.

Three other firms, Prior Resources, Southern Era Resources and Antler, are exploring for diamonds or other minerals.

Epic Energy firm has begun drilling its third well in the Aktash oil field in Crimea and expects to be pumping by summer. Expectations are high because the first two wells drilled by the company have yielded oil that is currently being tested for its marketable qualities. The oil is being jointly evaluated by Epic and its local partner, the KrymGeologia enterprise.

(Edmonton Journal)