



Growing Trade to Help Build a Strong and Prosperous Ukraine

Extracts from an address by Canada's Minister for International Trade, Hon. Art Eggleton, to the CUCC Luncheon, Toronto, March 29, 1996.

CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN OCTOBER 1996 TRADE MISSION TO UKRAINE

Hon. Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade, announced that the Canadian government will participate in a high-level trade mission to Ukraine in the fall of 1996, most likely in October. The announcement was made at a March 29 luncheon hosted by the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce (CUCC) in Toronto. The Minister associated the need to strengthen the opportunities available to Canadian business in Ukraine and vice versa with the contribution made by Ukrainian Canadians in the development of Canada, particularly in the Western provinces.

Following are extracts of the Minister's address.

Kuchma chose Canada as the destination of his first State Visit abroad, in October 1994, and now, we look forward to building upon our relationship with enhanced trade and economic cooperation.

And recent numbers demonstrate the growth of that trade. In 1994, Canada exported about \$9 million worth of goods to Ukraine and imported \$18 million. By 1995, our exports there had quadrupled, to over \$43 million. This is a phenomenal increase and one to welcome.

We value the opportunity to expand trade because we believe Ukraine is a country on the move. To be sure there are still hurdles to be overcome. The transition to a market-based economy is a slow and often painful process, but we stand ready to help in any way we can. Ukraine is a country with tremendous potential. It is rich in natural resources. It has a highly-trained workforce, an enviable geographic location, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and a growing consumer demand.

As Ukraine moves to reconstruct its economy and industrial infrastructure, Canada is in a position to assist. In the oil and gas sector, for example, Canadian secondary and tertiary recovery technology is particularly suited to Ukrainian needs.

There are also opportunities in the area of farming. Canadian dry land farming technology and equipment, as well as our advanced plant and animal genetics, hold the potential to greatly assist in the process of overhauling the Ukrainian food production sector.

Canadian leadership in environmental technology can also be of assistance. As you know, Ukraine suffers from serious air and water pollution and new equipment and expertise can assist in the restoration of acceptable air and water quality.

Many Canadian companies have already seen the opportunities in Ukraine and

have established joint ventures or are investing directly. For example, a joint venture has been established with Landford International to build houses on the outskirts of Kyiv. Northland Power is working on the rehabilitation of Ukrainian thermal power plants and Teleglobe has opened a satellite communications station.

I am even advised that Canadian companies have formed joint ventures to produce pizzas and perogies in Ukraine! Can you imagine? Selling perogies in Ukraine!

Together with these private sector initiatives, there are also a number of government-to-government agreements which aim to facilitate trade relations between our two countries. The Foreign Investment Protection Agreement, the Economic Co-operation Agreement and the Agreement on Trade and Commerce have been working and working well in solidifying our trading relations. Through the Export Development Corporation, Canada has made available a special line of credit to Ukraine in the amount of \$20 million. The Renaissance Eastern Europe Program, administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, has financed more than 40 trade

The tie between Ukraine and Canada is one of the oldest and most important in our history... Between 1890 and 1914, some 100,000 to 200,000 Ukrainians arrived on our shores... Much of what we have, much of what we are as a country, is due to the contribution and the sacrifice they made.

As a country, therefore, Canada looks upon Ukraine with great affection. We follow events there with more than a passing interest, We watched with pride as you won your independence in 1991 - peacefully. It is no coincidence that Canada was the first Western country to recognize Ukraine. The first to extend an official line of credit, to declare a special partnership with Ukraine. Canada was pleased to host the Winnipeg G-7 Conference on Economic Restructuring of Ukraine and to place Ukraine on the agenda of the G-7 Summit in Naples. And we were honoured when President



Head of Ukraine's Trade and Economic Mission to Canada Ihor Sanin (l) with Canada's Minister for International Trade Art Eggleton at the CUCC luncheon.