



EMBASSY NEWS'N ACTIVITIES



Embassy of Canada in Ukraine
KYIV

*compiled by officers and staff of the
Canadian Embassy*

Canadian Embassy

Ambassador Westdal Addresses Seminar on Energy Sector Cooperation

A Ukrainian-Canadian seminar "State Regulation and Market Reforms in the Energy Sector, and the Legal Basis for Pipeline Transit" was held Sept. 27, 1996 in the Verkhovna Rada, organized by the VR and Canadian-Ukrainian project for legal cooperation, with the assistance of the Canadian Embassy. Ambassador Westdal spoke at the seminar on the importance of reducing Ukraine's energy dependence on other countries, to enhance independence and security.

Ukrainian experts also continued to examine Canadian experiences in regulating the energy sector, closing unprofitable mines, and transporting fuel resources, with a visit to Canada by an official delegation last fall.

Trade Program

The major event was the visit of Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, Oct. 23-25, accompanied by a Canadian Business Delegation of more than 70 representatives (far more than expected). The week-long busy program was done in partnership with the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce. The highlight was the inaugural meeting of the Inter-governmental Economic Commission during which 16 organizations presented Minister Axworthy and his Co-chair Minister Osyka the challenges and issues which they were encountering in doing business in Ukraine. The second IEC meeting will be in Calgary, the week of June 16, 1997, during which progress on resolving the challenges presented in October can be measured.

Saskatchewan's Deputy Premier Dwain Lingenfelter and Manitoba's Minister Len Derkach led Business Delegations respectively before and after the Minister Axworthy's visit. These three visits and the IEC all complemented the announcement and initial promotion of the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative (CUBI) which will result in a week long series of events in June 1997, in Calgary, Regina and Winnipeg, promoting bilateral business opportunities in the sectors of energy, agriculture, and construction-building products. The flow of business visitors during the period has been impressive and with the planning for CUBI '97, promises to continue into the New Year.

Lingenfelter's delegation of business people from the oil/gas and agricultural sectors were guests of honour at a series of Embassy events Oct. 14-17, culminating in the signing of cooperation arrangements with Kharkiv and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts.

Immigration

The Immigration Section of the Embassy, is continuing its efforts to attract highly skilled immigration applicants, who will participate, in early 1997, at

a trade show for modern information technologies. Experienced IT specialists interested in emigrating to Canada are invited to visit Canada's booth at EnterEX'97 in Kyiv from Feb. 17-22, 1997.

Technical Cooperation

On Nov. 29, Ambassador Christopher Westdal hosted a reception for the Canadian NGO "Help Us Help the Children" following the delivery of another round of humanitarian supplies to orphanages across the country. The NGO has established a Ukrainian counterpart, which is seeking Ukrainian corporate funding to provide additional resources to underfunded orphanages. To this end, a number of prominent bankers and business people were in attendance at the reception, and Victor Yushchenko, Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine, made an emotional plea to his colleagues to provide for Ukraine's orphans.

Following three weeks of environmental assessment work at a military base in Pervomalsk, a team of Canadian experts from Environment Canada, Gartner Lee International, and Fenco MacLaren celebrated with their colleagues from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and other project participants by attending a reception at the Canadian Embassy on Dec. 2. Ambassador Westdal noted the spiritual connection of Ukrainians to their soil, and thus the need to ensure full environmental remediation of contaminated sites.

Official startup ceremonies for the GIS Chornobyl project took place at the Canadian Embassy on Dec. 6. The project, managed by Photosur Geomat International of Montreal, held its first steering committee meeting, which was followed by a signing ceremony with its 6 Ukrainian partner organizations. Over the next 2½ years the project will develop a GIS system to monitor the extent of radiation damage in the contaminated areas around Chornobyl.

NATO Contact Mission

Since Sept. 1, 1996, the Canadian Embassy has taken over the duties of NATO Contact Point Mission in Ukraine. As a result, Canada has been involved in a series of key visits to Ukraine by senior Alliance figures, including Gen. George Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen. Klaus Naumann, Chairman of NATO's Military Committee, and Gen. George Kyan, Commander Allied Air Forces Central Europe.

The Embassy is helping to keep the lines clear between Kyiv and Brussels, as Ukraine works out its future relationship with an enlarged NATO. With a permanent Kyiv NATO Information Office in the offing, the Embassy is providing logistical and policy support to speed its successful establishment.

Regional Initiatives

On his first visit to Kharkiv, Dec. 4-6, Ambassador Westdal addressed over 100 regional and municipal officials from Luhansk, Kharkiv, Poltava and Sumy oblasts on the importance Canada attaches to good and honest government.

In addition to calls on oblast Administration Head Oleh Dyomin and city Major Yevhen Kushnaryov, the Ambassador also met Kharkiv's new private business community at Grant Bank.

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