



UKRAINE'S FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS CANADA



Minister Hennadiy Udovenko (rt) receives a warm welcome from his Canadian counterpart Lloyd Axworthy ...



European security and bilateral cooperation were the focus of a successful whirlwind visit to Canada by Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko March 4-7, 1997, following up Minister Lloyd Axworthy's Trade Mission to Ukraine last October.

Minister Udovenko's itinerary included Ottawa, where he met with Canada's Governor General Roméo LeBlanc, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Senate Speaker Gildas Molgat, Defence Minister Douglas Young, MPs, Senators and senior government officials, in addition to holding extended talks with Axworthy.

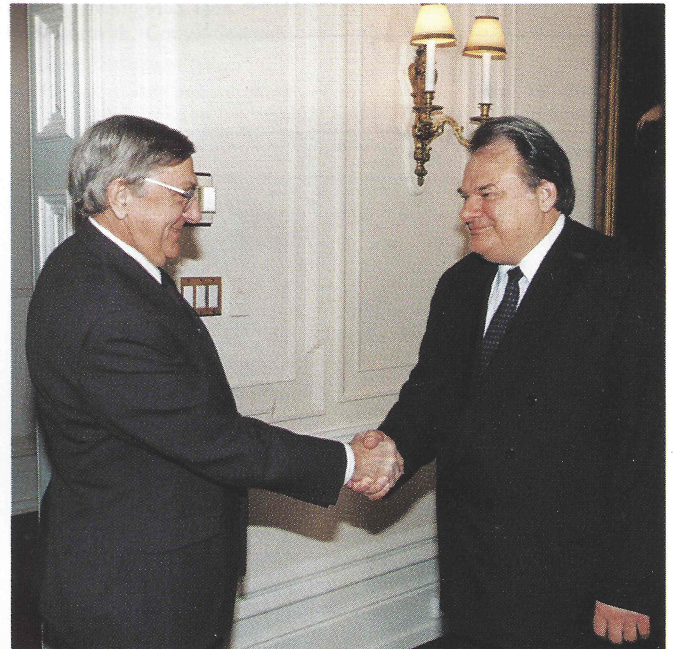
The Ukrainian Foreign Minister also visited Winnipeg, meeting with Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon to strengthen Manitoba-Ukraine cooperation, and addressing a joint Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and Ukrainian Canadian Congress luncheon.

In Winnipeg, Ministers Axworthy and Udovenko signed two bilateral agreements

on peacekeeping and information sharing.

SECURITY ISSUES

At the top of Minister Udovenko's agenda during discussions with the PM and Minister Axworthy were Ukraine's security needs vis-a-vis NATO's eastward expansion into Central Europe. As NATO's contact mission to Ukraine, the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv plays a strategic role in mediating issues between Ukraine and Eastern Europe, and will continue its key role in the soon-to-be-established NATO information office in Kyiv.



Christian Coulombe

... and Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (top) and Governor General Roméo LeBlanc.