



Meeting in Ottawa with the Executive of the World Ukrainian Congress. Second from right: WUC President Dmytro Cipywnyk.



Accepting Ottawa-based COREL Corporation's Web Graphic Suite software to develop an INTERNET web site for Ukraine's Foreign Ministry.

During Udovenko's afternoon meeting with Premier Filmon, both parties stressed the importance of Canadian-Ukrainian inter-regional cooperation and outlined some priority areas for this type of cooperation. Filmon and Manitoba Rural Development Minister Len Derkach emphasized the key role that Winnipeg will be playing in linking Ukrainian and Canadian partners this summer, as hosts of the Construction Sector meetings of CUBI '97.

Later, at a wreath-laying ceremony at the monument honouring Taras Shevchenko before Manitoba's legislature, Premier Filmon emphasized the province's historic family connections with the people of Ukraine, offering tribute to a man who personified selfless dedication to his people and his country. "(Shevchenko's) legacy to us was a belief that we have the right to democracy and equality... freedom of choice for language, religion, and the celebration of culture and heritage. These beliefs are embraced and highly prized in Canada and Ukraine."

"Ukrainian Canadians came to Canada inspired by his (Shevchenko's) dreams -- cherishing his system of values," joined Axworthy. "They made an enormous contribution to Canada, in part inspired by his example and his admonition to 'learn from others but do not reject your own' language, culture and your sense of compassion."

Minister Udovenko described the visit as an excellent opportunity to build on the tremendous success of the special relationship that exists between Ukraine and Canada, and to

engage in constructive discussions with Canada's leadership.

"With input from the private sector and support from Canada's Ukrainian-Canadian community, Ukraine and Canada can forge

a closer partnership in business and in our shared commitment to advance the historical and cultural bonds of our two nations," said the Minister.

During the Visit:

100 Tractors for Sale: Winnipeg's New Holland Close to \$40 Million Deal

by Paul Samyn, Winnipeg Free Press

Winnipeg's largest tractor plant moved one step closer to a Cdn\$40-million deal with Ukraine March 6.

Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko kicked the tires of a New Holland four-wheel drive tractor and liked what he saw. "It would be very expensive for our farmers," Udovenko said as he climbed down from the bright blue \$100,000 tractor.

But through financing with the Export Development Corp., Manitoba-made tractors may soon be working Ukrainian wheat fields. Funding through the EDC is still being negotiated but Udovenko's visit was a crucial part of the fine tuning needed to secure the loan which will allow trade with the emerging Ukrainian market.

"All we need is for the Ukrainian government to put its stamp of approval on it and we are in business," Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said.

Canada and Manitoba have both been playing a big part in helping Ukraine's economy emerge from the shadow of the former Soviet Union. Axworthy led a trade

mission to Ukraine last year and the Filmon government has been busy trying to open economic links to the country. "We think there is a huge potential market place for us to both benefit from," Axworthy said.

Currently, two-way trade between the countries is only about \$60 million. But if the EDC can secure the New Holland deal, that trade total would take a huge jump.

"We would be very proud to supply 100 Versatile tractors from this plant to Ukraine," Tom Kennedy, new Holland Executive Vice-President, said. Udovenko said one of his country's biggest problems is the need to attract foreign capital and he hopes the New Holland deal leads to joint ventures.

"We are very much interested in the Canadian experience of agriculture," he said. After meeting with Udovenko, Premier Gary Filmon said there are further opportunities for Manitoba businesses in Ukraine.

"Manitoba is continuing discussions with Ukraine and we look forward to trade missions," Filmon said.