

Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and pursuing productive contacts with NATO, WEU and other structures ...

Ukraine does not have to preclude its participation in the European security system which is under the process of creation now and which should have as its major components the leading European structures such as OSCE, NATO, EU, WEU and others

At the same time, to ensure stability and security, and to avoid drawing new division lines and new confrontation in Europe, it is also necessary to: firstly - ensure NATO's openness in the future; secondly - ensure that this process is accompanied by the widening of cooperation between NATO and other structures and all interested countries of the region; and thirdly, adequately take into consideration interests and concerns of all countries in the region as well as by transformation of the Alliance into wider collective security structures.

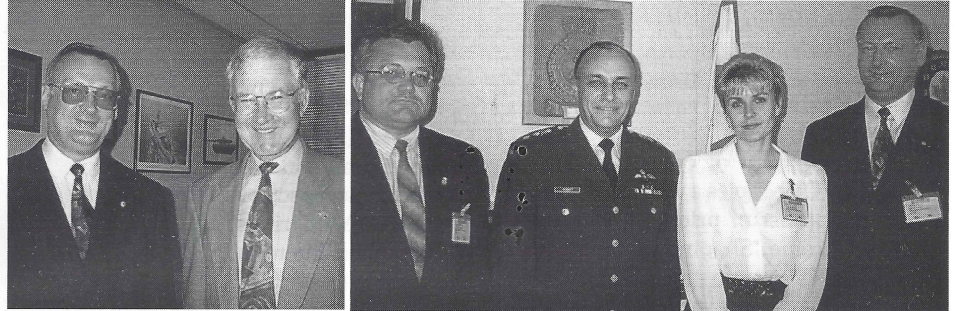
For my country, the Madrid summit has also given birth to an event of prime significance: the signing of the Charter on Ukraine-NATO Special Partnership. This truly historic document has become yet another testimony that the European continent will gradually have its new security system developed on the basis of openness and partnership.

The adoption of this Charter reflected the deep internal transformation of NATO as well as the substantial achievements of the democratic course of Ukraine in its integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

The special partnership will expand the existing frame of cooperation within NACC and PfP program which involve 16 countries of the North-Atlantic Alliance along with 28 partner-countries. It is considered to be an important and independent instrument of the united security system in Europe which has been developing since the end of the Cold War and is aimed at replacing the old confrontational model built at the end of the WWII in Yalta on the basis of that time -- understanding of the division of Europe to "influence and domination spheres".

By recognizing Ukraine's key role in supporting all-European stability and security, NATO member-states, in turn, supporting preservation of Ukraine's sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of its borders as well as its strategic goal to fully integrate into European and Euro-Atlantic structures opened to all European democracies. Special Ukraine-NATO relations will not only contribute to the strengthening of stability and

Ukraine's Emergency Preparedness Deputy Minister Meets Canadian Counterparts



Left photo - l-r: Lt. Gen. V. Hrechaninov, DM of Emergency Planning of Ukraine and M. Graham, Director of Emergency Programs and Exercises, EPC. Right photo - l-r: Prof. A. Hrekhov (First Secretary for Science & Technology, Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa); R.R. Henault, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, DND; Natalia Bezrodnenko, Senior Specialist, Ukraine's Ministry of Emergency Planning; and Lt. Gen. Hrechaninov.

A delegation from the Ministry of Emergency Planning of Ukraine headed by Deputy Minister Lt. Gen. V. Hrechaninov was in Ottawa Sept. 14-16 to exchange information on topics in civil defence and the prevention of emergency situations. During the visit, they met with Dr. Eric Shipley, Executive Director for Emergency Preparedness Canada, Michael Braham, Director of Programs and Exercises for EPC and Dr. C. Tucker, EPC's Senior Scientific Advisor.

Later, at a briefing at Environment Canada, they held discussions with R. Kallio, Head of the Hydrotechnical Section, M. Sydor, Head of Ecosystem Modelling and Analysis, and J. Cooper, Director of Water Issues Branch, and were briefed on Canada's methods for handling issues related to ecosystems and environmental resources. The delegation also met with the Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. R. Henault and advisors at the Department of National Defence.

security in Europe but as well widen the borders of common democratic values...

Let me especially underscore that indivisibility and comprehensiveness of the European security are not merely some academic or declarative principles for Ukraine. From the point of view of our national security they lie within the practical realm. The thousands of years of Ukrainian history where so many pages are written in blood and tragedies, is now entering its stable and civilized phase...

I would also like to stress the major role Canada has played, and continues playing, in developing Ukraine-NATO relations. Canada was the first Western country to recognize Ukraine's renewed independence back in 1991. From the very beginning, different from some other countries, Canada has had its conceptual strategic vision of the role and significance of Ukraine for securing peace and stability in Europe, and thence, in the whole world. Canada has consistently rendered Ukraine all-round assistance and support in the dif-

ficult first years after the renewal of our independence, supporting Ukraine within the NATO framework in particular.

An important role in furthering this special partnership is played by NATO Information Centre, opened in Kyiv by NATO Secretary-General J. Solana on May 7, 1997 (headed by Canadian diplomat Roman Lischynsky - ed) ...

Widening of its cooperation with NATO corresponds to the national interests of the country, its strategy to integrate into the European and Euro-Atlantic structure. In such context only we see prospects for Ukraine's development as an independent European state. Establishment of special relations is also in line with the role Ukraine plays on the continent and also contributes to the significance of the Alliance to European security. It will become a certain guarantee against drawing new division lines in Europe and restoring "influence spheres" or security "grey zones".