



Canadian Embassy

Embassy of Canada in Ukraine

KYIV

compiled by officers and staff of the
Canadian Embassy

Ambassador Westdal meets Ukraine's PM

During a meeting with Canadian Ambassador Christopher Westdal Sept. 3, Ukrainian Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko expressed concern over the fall in trade between Ukraine and Canada especially in Ukraine's exports to Canada. Pustovoitenko stressed that efforts must be made to improve trade relations between Ukraine and Canada.

Trade in 1996 was valued at US\$59.3 million, but it was only \$21 million for the first half of 1997. Ukraine's export to Canada in the first half of 1996 accounted for US\$6.4 million. This figure fell to US\$4.4 million for the same period this year (See *Trade Tables*, pages 42-43).

Ukraine's PM assured the Ambassador that measures taken by the Ukrainian Cabinet to reform the ailing Ukrainian economy "are to improve the investment climate." He urged the Canadian side to intensify investment in the Ukrainian economy and promised the Cabinet will take necessary measures aimed at returning private credits provided by Canadian companies. Westdal noted that there are exemplary cases of Canadian companies operating successfully in Ukraine. He stressed the need for the Ukrainian-Canadian Trade and Economic Committee on Cooperation, headed by Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister Serhiy Osyka, to become more active.

The Ambassador noted that this committee should involve itself in preparing a list of priorities which would direct cooperation between the two countries. He personally promised to send his proposals on improving relations. Pustovoitenko named agriculture and the processing industry as priority sectors.

Westdal re-emphasized that Canada views Ukraine as an important strategic partner. He added Ukraine is an "important factor in European Stability" and apologized for the re-scheduling of a visit by Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to Ukraine scheduled for the fall.

Canada Works with Ukrainian, Polish Farmers

From September 2-5, the Canada-Ukraine-Poland Dairy Agri-Trade project conducted a tour of Polish farmers through the Stariy-Sambir Region, South of Lviv (See *story on page 12*). The group from Poland visited (with their Ukrainian counterparts) breeding stations, discussed herbicide and weed control, and viewed crops. Particularly impressive was the soybean crop in the region - one of the first in Ukraine. The crop was grown with soybean seed supplied by Polish partners to Ukrainian farmers. Canadian experts from the International Livestock Management School deemed the crop at one farm to be up to Canadian standards. The program was also attended by staff from the Canadian Embassy.



Amb. Christopher Westdal and Madam Sheila Hayes with Premier and Mrs. Gary Filmon at the Canada-Manitoba reception during the Premier's trade mission to Ukraine (see lead story on page 2).

Canada Contributes to Help Us Help the Children

On August 19, the Canadian Embassy played host to 30 young people involved with Help Us Help the Children. The event was centred around a contribution of \$10,000 from the Canada Fund to Help Us Help the Children in order to enable them to organize and host a conference for directors of Ukrainian orphanages this fall. The event included a presentation by Ambassador Westdal, as well as words of thanks from several of the young orphans who have benefitted from the work of Help Us Help the Children.

Canada Supports Youth Basketball League

Ambassador Christopher Westdal announced a contribution of US\$9,000 to finance the creation of a youth basketball league for Ukrainian and international students. The funds will be used by the Kyiv International School and School No. 106 to create six basketball teams for approximately 110 students. The teams will be coached by teachers from both schools and by parent volunteers, and it is hoped that the league will expand in the future to include teams from other local schools in the near future.

"This basketball league will be a very beneficial experience for students and parents alike," said Amb. Westdal. "Not only are we encouraging physical fitness and exercise for the students, but by involving parents and students from both local and international schools, we are encouraging volunteers who have important contributions to make to the growth of a healthy civic society. I look forward to attending the awards ceremony to present the winning teams with their trophies." The contribution comes from the Embassy's Canada Fund, which provides support to Ukrainian non-governmental organizations working toward social, economic or democratic reform.

→