

Legislative Drafting Seminar in Kyiv

In late February, Ukraine's Minister of Justice Suzanna Stanik and Canada's Ambassador Christopher Westdal opened a working international seminar at the Ministry of Justice in Kyiv entitled "General Elements of Legislative Drafting: a Canadian Perspective."

The five-day seminar was organized under the auspices of the Canada-Ukraine Legislative Drafting Program, and is an integral part of the Program.

The Canadian experts who presided over the Seminar, jointly with representatives of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and, more specifically, the Centre for Legal Reform and Legislative Drafting of that Ministry, selected the participatory technique. This meant — no conferences, no speeches. One of the key organizers of the Seminar, Robert Bergeron, Director of the Program, pointed out that only practice will enable the Ukrainian participants to express their concerns and to relate their own experience

to the Canadian expertise being presented.

The seminar consisted of fifteen hours of practical exercises in legal drafting and the interpretation of legal texts. This includes the complementary aspects of communicating a legal message effectively from the different perspectives of an individual citizen, a lawyer and a judge.

The Ukrainians participating in the Seminar are experts and jurists of the Ministry of Justice and of other ministries of the Ukrainian government. Olena Bogachova, Director of the Centre for Legal Reform and Legislative Drafting, underlined the fact that a number of renowned law professors from Kyiv, Lviv and Kharkiv were also invited to take part in certain activities of the Seminar.

A full report summarizing the work of the Seminar is to be published by the Director of the Program to make this valuable experience available to a large number of experts throughout Ukraine.

CIDA Support to Secure Damaged Chornobyl Reactor

On November 20, 1997 Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau announced CIDA's pledge of \$28 million to repair the protective shelter built around a part of the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. Michael Duval, Canada's Deputy Permanent Representative and UN Ambassador, outlined Canada's commitment at a meeting in New York of donors who are pledging funds to stabilize the structure.

"More than 6,000 workers would be at direct risk and millions of people would be affected if the structure covering the damaged reactor gave way," said Madame Marleau. "Preventing a major environmental catastrophe and protecting the health and safety of people around Chornobyl is an important global challenge".

Canada's pledge is part of a concerted effort by the G-7, the European Union and Ukraine to repair the shelter and to move towards closing Chornobyl by 2000, as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding signed in Ottawa in December 1995. The G-7 Nuclear Safety Working Group and Ukraine have agreed on an estimated \$750 million (US) multi-year plan to secure the structure.

Most of CIDA's \$28 million contribution will be channeled through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and will be used to secure and repair the protective shelter built around the remains of Chornobyl's unit 4 reactor. The structure has deteriorated over time, becoming unstable and cracked. International experts predict that, without repairs, the existing structure could collapse, causing further radioactive fall-out.

From Canada's total pledge, \$1.4 million is earmarked for the urgent repair of the ventilation stack between reactor units 3 and 4. CANATOM, a nuclear engineering consulting firm from Oakville, Ontario, will co-manage the repairs with the USA and Ukraine.

The Chornobyl disaster in April 1986 drew international attention to the importance of safety in the use of nuclear energy. As part of its programming in Central and Eastern Europe, CIDA supports many initiatives to enhance nuclear safety in the region.

New CIDA Initiative

Democratic Education Project

On Feb. 4, 1998, at a ceremony in the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv, Canada and Ukraine launched a major joint Democratic Education Project to foster political culture in Ukraine. Presidential Administration Deputy Head Vasyl Kremen, First Deputy Minister of Education Victor Andruschenko, and Project Director Prof. George Perlin of Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario) joined Amb. Christopher Westdal for the inception of a four-year effort to establish a foundation course on democracy for Ukrainian universities and colleges.

The \$2.1 million project, funded by CIDA, will have its major impact through offering a customized doctoral level program at Queen's University for 48 Ukrainian scholars (4 groups over 2 years). A textbook on democracy for Ukrainian universities is to be produced in a collaborative undertaking by Ukrainian and Canadian professors. In addition, some 25 monographs will be published in Ukrainian, synthesizing key issues and findings in western scholarship about democracy by renowned academics. An

electronic journal is to be developed for the publication of scholarship on democratic development in Ukraine.

A tri-lateral memorandum was signed to provide a framework for carrying out project activities in Ukraine and outline the responsibilities of the three sides. Queen's University will ensure that the publications and content of the fellowship program meet international standards. Ukraine's Ministry of Education will facilitate certification of the foundation course and texts according to international standards. The Ministry will also form a consultative council of rectors and department chairs to enable returning fellows to teach courses in Ukraine on democratic politics using the textbooks that have been developed.

Queen's University and the Ministry will jointly ensure that the selection process will be an open and fair competition. Those eligible for the fellowship program are early to mid-career scholars who are candidates of political science, sociology, philosophy, journalism, pedagogy and public administration.