



a recent policy statement adopted by Ukraine's Parliament: "Ukraine will avoid participation in the institutionalization of forms of inter-state co-operation within the CIS which are able to transform the commonwealth into a supra-state structure of a federative or confederative nature". We certainly will not agree to Moscow's political domination as a precondition of economic ties.

For centuries Russia was the main enemy of Ukraine's independence. So, at times, we do not see our allies in Russian society. We are conscious of the fact that we are condemned to live forever with Russia as our neighbour, and this determines our policy of compromise so clearly exhibited when it came to the settlement of the Black Sea fleet issue.

We are also conscious of the fact that Russia needs time to get used to the independence of Ukraine, just as it took time for Russia to get used to the independence of Finland and Poland, who were also once Russian colonies. But our concessions cannot be capitulations, and what awaits us in the future cannot be the road of return.

UKRAINE: A NEW REALITY IN EUROPE

Ukraine is a new reality that can help transform European history from a zone of world wars - which repeated themselves with maddening regularity - into a zone of stability and peace. We think we have an important contribution to make to the establishment of a unified and free Europe.

Ukraine wishes to create an alliance of Central European countries with similar problems because of their totalitarian past but who have now embarked on a period of renaissance. The basis of this new cooperation - of a real new commonwealth - must be the renunciation of territorial claims, commitment to economic cooperation, respect for the rights of national minorities, and cultivation of traditional cultural ties.

One way or another, Central Europe, of which Ukraine is a part, cannot be divided into spheres of influence of major powers. It would be a fatal mistake to take under NATO's umbrella one state, but to leave

Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine François Mathys Speaks Out on Relations and Issues

On September 3, 1993, Canada's first Ambassador to Ukraine was interviewed by Centre Directors Andrij Hluchowecy and Orest Dubas. Mr. Mathys has a long history of diplomatic services. He has been with External Affairs since 1967 and has served abroad in New York, Moscow (twice), and with NATO in Brussels from 1983 to 1986, where he was Deputy Permanent Representative. On July 31, 1992, External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall appointed François Mathys Ambassador to Ukraine.



- *Mr. Ambassador, can you provide us with a status report on the progress of the renovations of the Embassy in Ukraine? And have sufficient resources been allocated by your Department of External Affairs towards your operations in Kyiv?*

Thank you very much for this opportunity to share my views and experiences as Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine. As to the status report on the Chancery renovations, I can certainly confirm that a Public Works Canada renovation crew is working full steam - 7 days a week, 12 hours a day - to get the work done. It is therefore possible to predict that within the next 6 to 7 weeks, the Canadian Embassy, the good part of the operations, will have left the Hotel "National" and will be functioning from the Chancery. As to the allocation of sufficient resources, I can certainly say that I am quite satisfied about both the financial resources and the personnel resources that are being allocated to Kyiv. One obstacle to more personnel resources was and remains the fact that we have to find decent accommodations for our Canadian staff and, of course, decent working conditions. Up to now, neither was quite easy to find. So, obviously, this predicament has nothing to do with the Department of External Affairs, but has very much to do with the conditions here in Kyiv, and that will not change in the foreseeable future. Therefore, to sum up, I believe that with a complement of 13 Canada-based staff I am equipped with a reasonably good amount of financial resources. I am equipped to do a good

others under cruel weather in a zone of barbed wire fences. Only together, the countries from the Black to the Baltic Seas (having first united) can we join Western Europe as a strong and self-sufficient partners - not as beggars looking for subsidies.

If the Evil Empire has to be maintained because it threatens the Empire of Abundance, and if God cannot show his power without Satan, then our future is a dismal one. However, we think that we are not condemned to serve as an example of societies which do not succeed. We firmly believe that the slavery of nations has to be destroyed forever, for even without this particular form of slavery there is so much pain that the Almighty will have enough to keep Him busy in the decades ahead. ■