



in place is far, far greater than the Canadian and American economies, and that says a lot about the very close, indeed, very intimate relationships, even at the enterprise level, between Ukrainian and Russian economies, industries and firms. These two countries, simply, at the moment have to recognize this fact, and try to find a civilized way to live with each other. There is no other way around this reality, at this moment. For the rest, the level of development of our economies, both U.S. and Canadian, prevents any comparison with that of Russia and Ukraine. But it is clear that if there is a lesson to be derived from our economic and commercial relationship with the Americans, it is that there is always a way to meet trade and economic issues. I certainly think our way, our model, whether through trade agreements or dispute settlement mechanisms, could eventually be followed here in Ukraine. But they first have to put into place a regime that recognizes the inter-relationship of their economies. And so soon after independence, it is not so easy to realize this. Both countries are more inclined to erect barriers than to facilitate trade and this has proven to be a major impediment to the economies of both countries, but mostly Ukraine.

- *Ukraine has been independent for over two years now, what do you see is the prognosis for its future?*

As far as my government is concerned, Ukraine is independent and will remain independent and it is certainly the policy of my government to do whatever it can, within the limits of its possibilities, to favour a more assured independent status for Ukraine. Ukraine has to become more economically independent. It has achieved political independence, that is fine. They ought to be congratulated for that, but economically they are too dependent and they have to be more independent. This is where Canada can help.

- *Do you have something specific that you would like to tell our readers?*

What I would like to tell your readers is that despite what they may hear about Ukraine in Canada, it is a very nice country. Kyiv is a beautiful city, and it's worth it to come here. Opportunities do

## LIBERAL PARTY UNVEILS UKRAINE PLATFORM

*Notes for an Address by the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Liberal critic for External Affairs, to the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation Convention in Winnipeg, July 3, 1993.*

The end of the Cold War, apart from being the most positive development of this and the next century, has left us with a dilemma. We are being forced to rethink our entire foreign policy at the very time when the enemy is much harder to identify, when our interests and security are defined in broader ways, and when our resources are so limited.

The challenge facing Canada's foreign policy today leaves us with what I call the "say and do everything" syndrome. Buzz words like human rights, global environment, cooperative security, UN reform find their way into every government statement. For every problem, there is a seemingly attuned, frantic response. It is as though we are running in all directions at once. We want to extinguish every fire.

exist and my office will always remain open. Visiting Canadians have come to know that by now.

- *Finally, can you tell us about any memorable or historic moments that you experienced in Ukraine?*

One certainly very nice moment I experienced was on the occasion of the visit to Ukraine by the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency, the Right Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn. The visit took some of us, myself included, to the Chernivtsi area with the Governor-General, and allowed me my first real possibility of looking at this region of Ukraine, where so many Canadians of Ukrainian origin come from. I plan to return to Chernivtsi in just a couple of weeks to have a more detached view of the region. It was certainly a very memorable moment for me, as I'm sure it was for the Governor General and his wife. ■

But behind the photo-ops, the apparent commitment, there is a sense of loss of purpose, opportunities and leadership. A real gap between what we say and what we do.

In many ways we still have a Cold War defence policy -- helicopters, massive cuts in resources for peacekeeping, no defence conversion program. We hesitate, procrastinate in Bosnia; trade with and aid oppressive Indonesia; pay lip service to real UN reform.

Perhaps nowhere is the lack of direction more apparent than in Canada-Ukraine relations. Every member of the government has said at one time or another that they recognize Ukraine's importance for Canada.

Many have seen, like I have, the immense appetite to do business with Canada in Ukraine. They understand its cultural importance to Canadians, particularly the one million Canadians of Ukrainian ancestry.

They see a country of 53 million; a land area as large as France with immense economic potential and a strategic location in the heart of the new Europe. They see a common need to diversify external economic links, reduce economic dependence on a huge, powerful neighbour.

And yet, there is no well thought-out, forthcoming, aggressive policy to seize these opportunities. As a diplomat said to me recently: "We have a window of 5 to 6 years left to make this happen in Ukraine. Billions of dollars in trade and commerce will be lost if the government does not act quickly to improve the situation."