



UCC PRESIDENT IN OTTAWA

Meets with Officials to discuss Ukrainian Canadian internment, multiculturalism, war crimes and Canada-Ukraine relations

Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Oleh Romaniw met with numerous government officials and policy makers in Ottawa during a highly successful two-day stopover to the Canadian capital on January 24-25, 1994. The highlight of the Ottawa visit was the warm welcome given by the Department of Foreign Affairs in preparation for consultations to take place between representatives of the UCC and Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and his deputy ministers in February.

Oleh Romaniw, accompanied by UCC Information Bureau Director Andriy Hluchowecy, began a whirlwind tour of the nation's capital with meetings at the Justice Department with the Director and General Counsel for the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section Peter M. Kremer. The UCC President voiced serious concerns that the Canadian government was contemplating denaturalization and deportation proceedings as a solution to dealing with suspected war criminals. It was made clear to Mr. Kremer that the UCC categorically rejects the deportation of any naturalized Canadian citizens to their country of origin or third countries on the basis of civil-administrative hearings. The UCC delegation also stressed the importance of the government's publicly stated intentions of bringing all war criminals found in Canada to trial in Canadian courts under Canadian criminal law.

The afternoon itinerary continued with a luncheon meeting with Irene Kamchen, the Executive Director of the German Canadian Congress, where issues of mutual concern were discussed. Special mention was made of the highly successful conference on doing business in Central and Eastern Europe that was organized with the participation of both Congresses, along with the Polish Canadian Congress, in Toronto.

Following the luncheon and a brief stopover at the Canadian Bureau for International Education for a meeting with Ihor Burakovsky, a visiting professor from the Ukrainian Institute of International Relations in Kyiv, the UCC delegation was hosted by the Parliamentary Secretary for International

Trade, Mac Harb where Canada-Ukraine trade relations were discussed. Though Mr. Harb was quite aware of the chaotic economic and political conditions in Ukraine today, he exhibited optimism that Ukraine, following its crucial parliamentary elections in March, would strive to develop its democratic processes and the infrastructure for a free market economy.

The next stop for the UCC President was to observe the lively Question Period in the House of Commons and to witness the quite unique and historic interplay between the Liberal Party and the elected members of two new parties on the Canadian political scene, the Reform Party of Canada and the Bloc Quebecois party.

While on Parliament Hill, Mr. Romaniw also took the opportunity to meet with Senator Raynell Andreychuk, the newly appointed Senator from Saskatoon, who is of Ukrainian descent. Ms Andreychuk, a career diplomat, exhibited a deep understanding of Ukrainian Canadian issues and expressed her personal commitment to raising and advocating Ukrainian concerns in the Senate.

The following day, the UCC delegation participated in a global security seminar led by Gaetan Lavertu, the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Political and International Security Affairs Branch at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The seminar, which examined Canada's priorities for promoting international security after the Cold War, was attended by many foreign diplomatic representatives, National Defence and Foreign Affairs officials, and NGO's including Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk, President of the World Congress of Ukrainians. During the seminar proceedings, the UCC President and the Information Bureau Director were called up for a planned meeting with senior policy planning officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs including Director General Michael Bell of the Central Eastern Europe Bureau and David Hutchings, the Deputy Director for Eastern Europe. UCC officials were briefed on the progress of Canada-Ukraine relations, including Canada's assis-

tance for the Ukrainian elections in March, the progress on the various bilateral agreements between the two countries and the planned consultative meetings scheduled between the UCC and the Foreign Affairs Minister on February 11, 1994.

Mr. Romaniw and Dr. Cipywnyk then proceeded to a luncheon meeting with the new Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada, Victor Batyuk and the First Secretary for Culture and Information, Yevhen Polishchuk. Ambassador Batyuk outlined the difficulties facing Ukraine and acknowledged the significant support the Ukrainian Canadian community has provided the new state. Both UCC and WCU presidents pledged their full support to the new Ambassador and diplomatic corps.

Oleh Romaniw's brief visit to the Canadian capital was also highlighted by a meeting with Sheila Finestone, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women. Ms. Finestone was briefed on the Ukrainian Canadian internment issue and on the progress of the case with the federal government, on several key multicultural concerns including heritage languages and the appointments of Ukrainian Canadians to federal boards and agencies, and on the future prospects for multiculturalism in Canada. Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk, in his capacity as President of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, also attended the meeting with the Minister.

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