



## UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS OUTLINES POLICY POSITION ON CANADA-UKRAINE RELATIONS

### BRIEF TO THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE REVIEWING CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY MAY 16, 1994

*The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is an umbrella council with representation from 31 national organizations comprising close to a thousand affiliate member organizations. The national body has six provincial councils (Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia), 40 local branches and representatives in cities across Canada (from Dartmouth to Vancouver), a UCC Information Bureau in the Nation's capital and a number of standing committees including one specifically dealing with Canada-Ukraine relations.*

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### 1. *Territorial integrity of Ukraine*

When Canada recognized Ukrainian independence on December 2, 1991, it recognized Ukraine in its entirety with its current boundaries, including Crimea. It is important that Canada firmly stand for the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and against any territorial disintegration of the country that may be instigated by foreign parties. It is doubtful, for example, that Russia will actually invade Ukraine in the near future, but it will certainly stimulate secessionist movements in Crimea, the Donetsk region, etc. aimed at annexing those lands to Russia. The same can be said of the strong movement in the Transcarpathia region of Western Ukraine, where the "Rusyn Association of Subcarpathia" calls for autonomy under the watchful eye of Hungary and Slovakia.

##### 2. *Recognition of Ukraine's existing borders*

Canada's foreign policy statement on Ukraine should clearly and unequivocally reaffirm Ukraine's existing borders and further stated that any attempt to alter these borders would be considered as a destabilizing move and a threat to the security of all Europe.

##### 3. *Security guarantees*

Ukraine must receive binding security guarantees from the West in return for becoming a non-nuclear state. Russia's pledge to monitor Ukrainian security is akin to Hitler's Germany pledging to protect Czechoslovakia in the 1930's. Ukrainians in Canada, along with those in Ukraine, are understandably bewildered about why Russia, which has moved rapidly toward a semi-authoritarian presidency and a parliament dominated by extreme nationalists and Communists, would be the recipient of such unconditional Western trust. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is cognizant of the fact that Canada cannot guarantee Ukraine's security. What Canada can do is call upon the United States and the other NATO countries that do have the capability to provide the security guarantees that Ukraine has requested. A clear signal from Canada and the Western alliance should be that any transgression of Ukraine's security will be responded to, in kind, with strict economic sanctions and political isolation against the aggressor.

##### 4. *Financial assistance for disarmament*

The January 14 agreement on Ukraine's nuclear missiles signed in Moscow between presidents Clinton, Kravchuk and Yeltsin, has given Ukraine few economic benefits to deal with its chronically poor economic situation. Hyperinflation has crippled Ukraine's economy and its currency is nearly worthless. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress expressed its concern with the previous government when it was learned that the G-7 countries, meeting in Japan in July 1993, refused Ukraine's request for financial

assistance. Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk had sent a letter on June 2 to the leaders of the G-7, asking for \$2 billion (US) to be used toward nuclear disarmament and economic reforms. While turning down Ukraine's request, the G-7 handed Russia \$3 billion in economic stabilization grants. This is unfair and unjust, and Canada's foreign policy towards Ukraine should reflect a new special relationship with Ukraine, where Ukraine would receive its fair share of Western assistance.

##### 5. *Promotion of a stable transition to democracy and to market-based economy in Ukraine*

During the past few years, the Canadian government has built an impressive technical assistance program designed to promote a stable transition to democracy and to market-based economies in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine. One such project is teaching both democratic processes and the operation of consumer financial services by developing a credit union system. Canada should continue and expand its efforts in Ukraine.

##### 6. *Special relationship with Ukrainian Canadian community*

The Ukrainian Canadian population has earned its equal place in Canadian society through blood, sweat and toil - from the first pioneers who broke virgin prairie soil through four successive generations. Since Ukraine's independence, the community in Canada has dedicated an inordinate portion of its resources, including financial, to assisting its ancestral homeland. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress contends the new Canadian foreign policy statement on Ukraine should clearly reflect this special relationship which exists between the people of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Canadian community.