



## 7. Immigration

During the Soviet Union's domination of Western Ukraine since World War II and of Eastern Ukraine since the early 1920's, communication ties and normal family relations with families in Canada were impossible. For many people, the events of history have completely severed all familial ties. Only today is it possible, for example, for grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., to come to Canada and see family members for the first time. Invariably, Canadians wish to sponsor these individuals. However, many do not qualify as Family Class members. Many of these Canadian families involve elderly people with few relatives or no children of their own and their attachment to these newly found relatives is very strong.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress recommends to the Government of Canada that the Regulations of the Immigration Act be amended to create "An East European/Former Soviet Union Family Reunion Program". This provision would enlarge the Family Class designation to include those relatives of the current Assisted Relative Class so that these members can be sponsored to Canada by permanent residents or citizens.

An alternative to this would be for the Government of Canada to provide, under the Immigration Act, 10 points to individual applicants seeking landing who may also apply under this program and who also have "Guarantors" in Canada able to provide the necessary financial and settlement arrangements. In this case, the Visa Officer would consider the application in its totality as an independent application with Canadian Guarantor under the program and not issue an automatic refusal regarding an "Application for Permanent Residence", if the applicant did not possess a secured job offer. As part of the amendment to the Regulations, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress would, through its agencies and member organizations, undertake to assist such immigrants with resettlement and language training in one of Canada's two official languages.

## 8. Military

The Canadian government should sign a military cooperation agreement with Ukraine that would provide for official and

working visits between delegations of the armed forces, exchange of technical equipment and material and cooperation in peacekeeping techniques between the two countries. In addition, Canada should have a military attaché at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv. These military relations with Ukraine would become an integral part of Canada's foreign policy in the region.

## 9. Trade

Canada should sign an umbrella trade agreement with Ukraine that would facilitate the Canadian business person's access to the Ukrainian market and would allow Ukrainian products and services to reach the Canadian market.

## 10. Agriculture

Agriculture makes up a significant portion of the Ukrainian economy. For example, Ukraine has produced 25% of the grain sown in the former USSR; 42% of the corn; 60% of sugar beets; 27% of the potatoes and so on. At the same time, it is commonly accepted that agriculture was one of the most ill-managed sectors of the Ukrainian economy under the previous regime. Reforms in agriculture, therefore, should be considered vital to the stability of the Ukrainian economy and, indeed, of the Ukrainian state itself.

The importance of agriculture and of agri-business to the economy of Canada should also not be understated. The interior of British Columbia, the three Prairie Provinces and the Niagara Peninsula of Southern Ontario, to name but a few regions of Canada, depend on agriculture-related activities for the well-being of their economies. Consequently, it seems to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress that a natural link between Canada and Ukraine exists in this sphere and that the opportunities for Canadians in capitalizing on this link are immense. In agriculture, the UCC feels that the Canadian government should concentrate on the following areas:

(a) The transfer of ideas, skills and technologies to Ukrainian private farmers and agrologists with a view to making such transfers financially rewarding for the Canadian side;

(b) Fostering and development of good relations between the agri-business communities of Canada and Ukraine so as to provide business opportunities and contacts for both Canadians and Ukrainians;

(c) Reaching of an agreement between the governments of Canada and Ukraine on a common agricultural policy or an agreement that covers trade and business as well as development projects;

(d) Providing on-going support in Ukraine to the private farmers through extension of support facilitated through the Ukrainian agricultural education system;

(e) Promoting an environment in which the creation of a democratic and free market society in Ukraine is realizable.

The World Bank studied the food and agriculture sector of the Ukrainian economy and concluded in May, 1993, that what is required is dedicating the increased resources necessary to restructure the Ukrainian agricultural educational system. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress considers that it would be advantageous to Canada for the Canadian government to act upon such recommendations for the purpose of co-operating with other international agencies and leveraging money for Canadian-based agricultural initiatives and development projects in Ukraine.

## 11. Nuclear

The Canadian government should actively seek to help Ukraine in its nuclear power industry. Such a Canadian initiative could be used to improve nuclear reactor design and operational safety for Ukraine's nuclear power plants. Ukraine, of course, is a potential market for Canada's CANDU reactors.

## 12. Exchange programs

Canada's foreign policy initiatives with Ukraine should seek the broadening of ties in the spheres of politics, economy, science, technology, cultural