



their stated goals. Realising these goals needs work on both sides:

- The countries of Central and Eastern Europe need to continue with economic reform, doing away with subsidies and introducing effective competition regimes, so that industries in the European Community can be sure free trade is also fair.
- Those countries should also work to loosen restriction on trade between themselves - without that, agreements with the Community will be of limited value.
- But the Community has to carry out these agreements in the liberal spirit the drafters intended. Members must resist the temptation, when times are hard, to use anti-dumping and safeguard measures as a way of relieving our own producers from genuine competitive pressures.

Trade liberalisation is an important, an indispensable goal in itself. But for those countries with Europe Agreements it is also designed to be a preparation for membership of the European Union. The member states have agreed that Central European Associates should join the Union when they are ready to assume the political and economic obligations. That will also require the Union to adapt its policies and institutions so that a larger Community both works, and is affordable to existing members...

## CONCLUSION

So the two concerns of Central and Eastern Europe are security and prosperity. I do not doubt that security is the more important. The search for a better system of order in the eastern half of our continent will dominate the agenda of Europe during this decade. There are two main reasons for this. The first is uncertainty about the future direction of Russia. The second is the experience of Yugoslavia.

We have to look realistically at the prospects for a system of international order, whether in Europe or elsewhere...

## CANADA LENDS A HAND IN UKRAINE

*by John Best, Special to the Winnipeg Free Press, March 20, 1994*

OTTAWA... Ukraine is in a mess. Since the former Soviet republic attained a sweet-tasting independence three years ago, nothing has gone right.

Sometimes you wonder how Ukraine can keep from falling back into clutches of a Russian-dominated empire that it spent three centuries trying to escape.

The fact that there are approximately one million Canadians of Ukrainian origin gives Canada special cause to do what it can to help Ukraine out of its time of troubles.

### Variety of ways

Happily, in a variety of small ways, we have begun meeting the challenge. And the involvement is carrying us head-first into what could become an extremely explosive situation on Ukraine's borders.

Canada's investment so far has ranged from a \$50 million line of credit; to a lot of feasibility studies aimed at creating Canadian-Ukrainian joint ventures; to technical assistance in areas such as agriculture, environment clean-up, health and democratic development. In general, it focuses on helping Ukraine make the painful transition from a Communist command economy to a free market economy.

### Big way

Now, Canada is involving itself in a big way in Ukraine's crucial parliamentary elections scheduled for March 27. Its contribution includes large quantities of specialized paper for printing of ballots; information material for the Ukrainian people on the mechanics of voting; training for Ukrainian media people on election coverage techniques; and a cadre of election observers.

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet says Canada must do all it can to build up political, economic and cultural ties with Ukraine. Accordingly the government is set on forging a "privileged relationship" with the Ukrainians.

His statement will come as welcome though perhaps surprising news to the beleaguered government in Kyiv, which has looked aghast at what it rightly considers the excessive amount of attention paid by Western countries, including Canada, to Russia, and the relative neglect until now of Ukraine.

Whether Western neglect is to blame or not, the Ukrainian economy is rapidly becoming a basket case, with production plummeting, and both inflation and unemployment spiralling. Part of the reason is Ukraine's inability to break the suffocating influence of the country's Communist-minded bureaucracy, which has managed to stifle progress toward a liberal market economy.

The economic woes and falling living standards undoubtedly contribute to growing centrifugal tendencies along Ukraine's border with Russia, especially in areas heavily populated by ethnic Russians.

And they are definitely a contributing factor in the seemingly unstoppable movement within Crimea, a strategically-placed peninsula in the Black Sea with a predominantly Russian population, to break away from Ukraine and form a partnership with Moscow.

### Moral support

Ouellet, to his credit, has not hesitated to lend Ukraine moral support in this tense situation, which many experts say could trigger a civil war within Ukraine or even a war between Ukraine and Russia.

"Ukraine's security has become a global concern", he said in a speech a while back, adding that Canada was well placed to take on the role of "facilitator" in efforts to compose differences between Ukraine and Russia.

"I plan to visit Moscow and Kyiv in 1994 to help get thing started and to find some concrete solutions."

### Stressed need

In a Parliament Hill scrum later, Ouellet avoided taking a direct stand on the Crimean dispute. Significantly, though, he stressed the need for