



respect both for minorities and for present boundaries.

He could try cooling Russia's irredentist ardor by throwing a certain book at Moscow: the text of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, signed by 35 European and North American states declaring "inviolable" the frontiers of all European states.

The Helsinki agreement was of course signed by the Soviet Union, not Russia. Nevertheless Russia as the principal successor state has an obligation to honour international commitments made by the Soviets. That should preclude any messing around with Ukraine's frontiers.

Don't be afraid to tell them that in Moscow, Mr. Ouellet.

*(Best is an Ottawa freelance writer specializing in foreign affairs.)*

## Letter to the Editor

## UKRAINIAN IMMIGRATION

Whereas the Minister of Immigration announced that 250,000 new immigrants will be allowed into Canada during 1994, and from statistics one can see that other nationalities are coming in at 14,000 to 20,000 each annually, the Ukrainian group is far behind at roughly 600 per year. The following are some of the problems facing Ukrainian immigrants:

### THE EMIGRANT APPLICATION FEE

Getting from Ukraine to Canada is not cheap nor easy. The Immigration Department's application fee in Kyiv is \$450.00 per adult plus \$50.00 for every child. For a family of four this amounts to a non-refundable total of \$1,000.00, and represents two years' salary for the average working person. In addition, the emigration family has to have enough to pay for airfares and sufficient cash for settlement purposes in Canada.

The aforementioned represents one of the major reasons why there is a dearth of applications at our Canadian Embassy in Kyiv. The Canadian government should lower the application fees to correspond to the working wages within the relevant

country where an embassy is located, and not be based on a Canadian earnings equivalent.

### ASSISTANCE TO POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS

To facilitate the movement of an independent class of immigrants from Ukraine to Canada, consideration should be given to the following:

(1) The establishment of a Ukrainian Canadian community financed Immigration Office in Kyiv, staffed by a Canadian, to assist with the completion of application papers, screening of immigrants and advising them of conditions in Canada. This would be carried out in full cooperation with the Canadian Kyiv Embassy. Many Ukrainian Canadians now in Ukraine would be more than willing to fulfil this function.

(2) Some type of fund should be established to allow those immigrants who have been processed by Kyiv to borrow from a central fund in order to cover fees, passage and settlement expenses.

The cost of immigrating is one of the major reasons for the low numbers arriving in Canada. The Immigration Department has indicated that it expects the Ukrainian Canadian community to provide greater settlement assistance to newly-arrived immigrants.

Bohdan Mykytiuk, President,  
Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society

## Who owns Crimea?

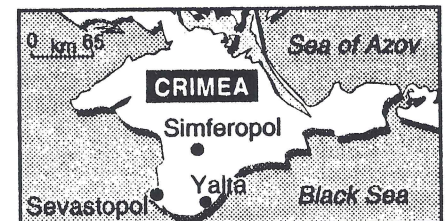
The Globe and Mail  
Editorial, May 25, 1994

In February, 1954, as a token of "the unity and indissoluble friendship of the Russian and Ukrainian people", Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev handed the Ukrainian republic a splendid gift: the Crimea. No one asked the Crimeans what they thought, but they were not expected to mind. After all, they were still members of the great Soviet family.

But after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Crimeans found

themselves part of a newly, militantly nationalistic nation, Ukraine. Many did not like it. The Russian speakers among them resented their minority status in the new country. In January, they elected a Crimean nationalist, Yuri Meshkov, as president, and on Friday, May 19, 1994, their parliament adopted a constitution that amounts to a declaration of independence from Ukraine.

The Ukrainian government is furious. Crimea, it says, is and always shall be a part of Ukraine. The Crimean parliament is equally adamant that if Crimea belongs to anybody it belongs to Russia. Who is right?



If geography is the guide, Crimea should belong to Ukraine, having no common border with today's Russia. Ethnically, Russia may have the greater claim. Roughly 65 percent of Crimeans are Russian, 20 percent Ukrainian, 10 percent Tatar. Historical ties also seem to favour the Russian connection. Catherine the Great annexed Crimea to Russia more than two centuries ago, ending 300 years of Ottoman Turkish rule. By rights, then, Crimea is clearly more Russian than Ukrainian. But rights must be set against real-life consequences. If Crimea were to break away from Ukraine, the consequences could be grave.

Within Crimea, ethnic conflict might erupt. The Ukrainian minority