



Canada is committed to helping countries improve the safety of existing nuclear technology in Ukraine. We will be providing assistance by strengthening regulatory agencies through the training of technicians and safety programs.

Q. Finally, has any progress been made on creating a bilateral inter-governmental trade commission between Canada and Ukraine to deal with the question of economic and trade cooperation, as foreseen in the "Agreement of Cooperation" signed last October during President Kuchma's visit to Canada?

Our representatives have initialled a Double Taxation Agreement, and signed an Economic Cooperation Agreement, a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement and a Trade Agreement. Once these are ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament, it would be an opportune time for our representatives to have an intergovernmental trade meeting to discuss further commercial issues. ■



CANADA

I am pleased that Canada has taken a leading role on Ukraine within the G-7. President Kuchma's visit to Canada and Winnipeg Conference on Ukraine's Economic Reform last fall were important in our efforts in this regard. President Kuchma has made considerable progress on his economic program since then, and our two countries have continued to develop our political and economic cooperation.

I share your view that the Halifax Summit should welcome Ukraine's efforts on economic reform, and Canada will be working with its G-7 allies for a strong statement of support on Ukraine. Officials from G-7 countries have been meeting with Ukraine representatives, and have made progress on issues for discussion at the Halifax Summit.

Jean Chrétien

*Excerpts from letter to Oleh Romaniv
President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress*

Cover Story:

Ukrainian Students in Canadian Parliament

by Alexandra Bardyn, Student Coordinator 1995

In 1991, Canadians celebrated the Centennial of Ukrainian group immigration to Canada. The *Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation* of Toronto, under President Ihor Bardyn, marked the Centennial by establishing the *Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary*



Program for undergraduate university students from Ukraine.

The program was considered to be a helpful way of sharing with Ukrainian students the precepts of the 'Rule of Law' as practiced in Canada. It was to give the students an opportunity to work and study in the Canadian Parliament and gain experience from which generations of Canadian, American and Western European students have already benefitted. The Program Director recognized the potential of the program, stating that "Ukraine's best and brightest students can do as much for Ukraine's image, working as they do with M.P.'s and their staff, and living among Canadians. The Program is an excellent training ground for Ukraine's future leaders."

The Program started in 1991 with three students, and, by 1994, seven students took part. This fifth year, 14 were chosen out of 75 applicants by a selection committee that travelled to Kyiv to interview them. The students attend universities in Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odessa, Simferopol, Ternopil and Lviv. Seven are studying law, and the others - economics, foreign languages, medicine, business and international relations.

For two weeks the students received introductory lectures on Canadian history and the democratic system in Toronto. They visited the General Motors Plant in Oshawa, the Ontario Legislature, the Royal Ontario Museum, Casa Loma, the rare books library and other places of interest.

The students' summer is spent working daily in an assigned MP's office. This year an unprecedented 28 members of the Canadian Parliament accepted students from Ukraine to work in their offices, including such prominent personalities as Hon. Warren Allmand and Hon. Anne MacLellan. The students thus have a chance to work in two different M.P.'s offices, one in May and the other in June. Not only do they work in Parliament in their respective MP's offices, but occasionally they may even travel with their MP's into their ridings. The Ukrainian students visit cultural and historic sights, and are immersed in Canadian culture where English and French are used on a daily basis.

In Ottawa, the program is coordinated by Alexandra Bardyn and Tamara Romas. (Tamara is also participating in the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Parliamentary Internship Program.) The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program continues to flourish and it is anticipated that ultimately the students who participate will become those future leaders who will bring about peaceful and meaningful political and economic change in Ukraine.