



HRYVANIA, UKRAINE'S ELUSIVE CURRENCY

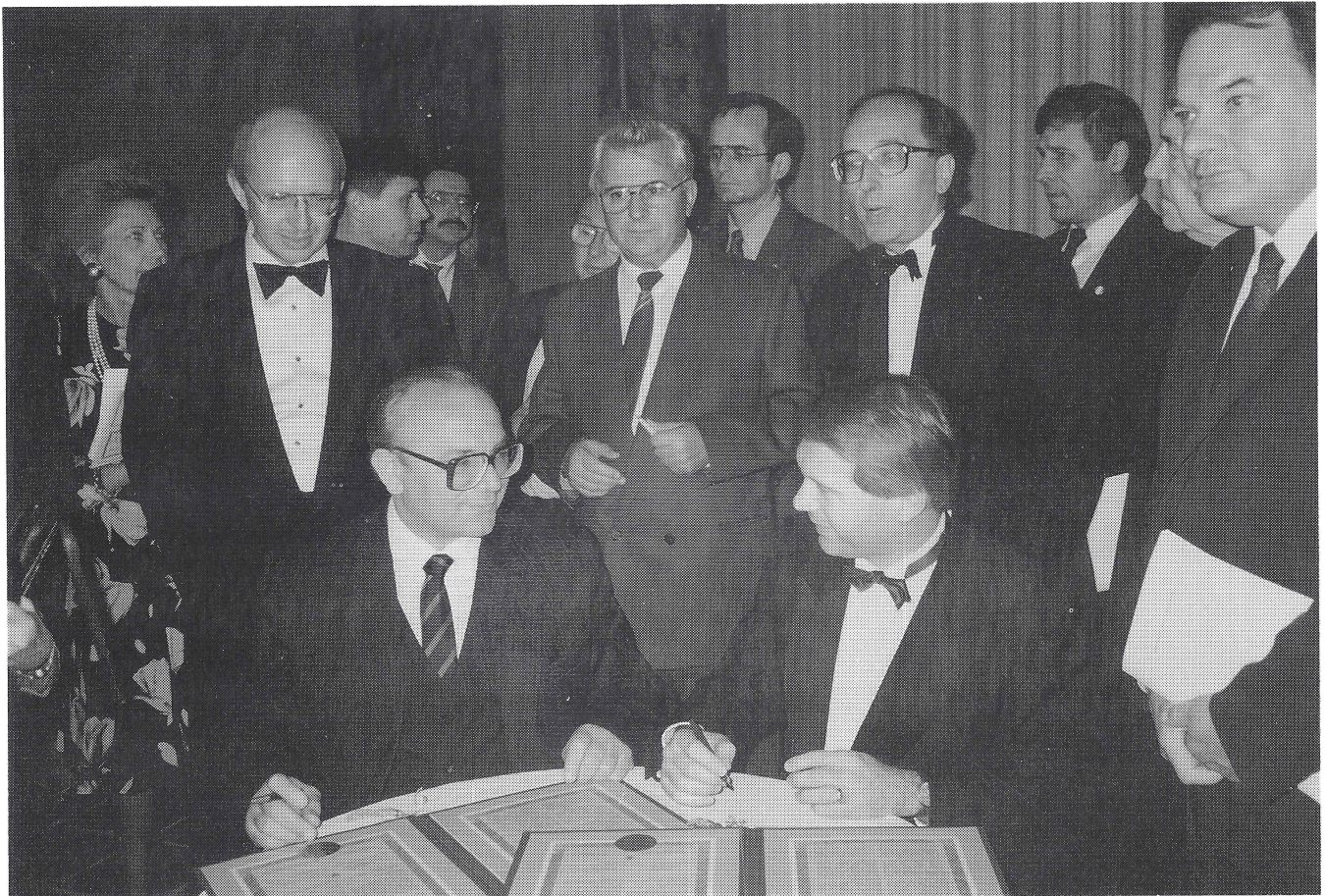
Four years ago in the fall of 1989, the first feelers were received in Canada regarding the production of security printed products, namely, a new currency for Ukraine. Exactly, a year later in November 1991, Ukraine signed a contract with Canadian Bank Note Company, Ltd. to produce its currency which was delivered to Kyiv in 1992.

So where is the hryvnia? The following chronology may shed some light on this question.

In 1991, following the Ukrainian declaration of independence, Canadian Bank Note Company, Ltd. (CBNC), responded to inquiries from Ukraine by preparing a formal proposal which was submitted to the National Bank of Ukraine and the Parliamentary Commission on Economic Reform and Management. On September 20, 1991, the Chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, V. Matvienko, signed two letters of intent with CBNC, one for the

urgent production of a new currency for Ukraine and the second for the creation of a joint venture between the National Bank of Ukraine and Canadian Bank Note to establish a security printing plant in Ukraine. Shortly thereafter, then the Speaker of Parliament, Leonid Kravchuk made a visit to Canada with a high level delegation. Again meetings and discussions were held with CBNC and another letter of intent was signed at a gala banquet held in honour of the Ukrainian delegation at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. Then, the pace of activities quickened.

A negotiation team represented by A. Savchenko, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine and M. Shvaika, Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Economic



Signing of the Letter of Intent to negotiate the printing of the Ukrainian currency -- the hryvnia -- and the creation of a joint venture to establish a printing facility in Ukraine, at the Waldorf Astoria in New York, October 1991. Signing, l-r: Valeriy Krawchenko, Minister of Foreign Trade, and Douglas Ahrends, President and CEO of the Canadian Bank Note Company, Ltd. Standing, l-r: Orest Nowakiwsky, VP, CBN, Leonid Kravchuk, former President of Ukraine (at that time, Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament); Bohdan Onyshchuk, legal advisor for Ukraine, Hennadi Udovenko, then Ukraine's Ambassador to the UN (now Foreign Minister -- see page 62).