



Chornobyl by the year 2000 stands; however, in practical terms this can only happen with the financial support of the G-7 countries. I cannot overstate the importance to the entire world community for a solution to the Chornobyl dilemma. I am counting on Canada's cooperation to develop a bilateral agreement to tackle the problems of Chornobyl, in accordance with the G-7 Memorandum signed in Ottawa on December 20, 1995.

- *How would you like to see Canada's role in Ukraine evolve on the political level, and in terms of both political and technical cooperation and trade?*

From their partnership, Canada and Ukraine should develop an even broader and closer relationship. Perhaps this is not for today, but it is a great possibility for the future. Technical assistance has its limits, trade does not. Technical assistance should aim at investment, the development of trade, and joint economic projects as its ultimate goals.

In terms of technical cooperation and assistance, Canada currently has a large thrust in:

- * the development of the processes of democratization;
- * economic restructuring and the development of a private sector;
- * solutions to problems in energy, ecology and health; and
- * agricultural reform.

We are grateful for this assistance. In the future, perhaps it will increasingly ensure a deepening of economic cooperation and foster working relations between the business communities of the two countries. This is precisely why such assistance will be more effective. These questions are to be addressed very shortly by Ms. Lada Pavlikovska, the head of the Agency for Coordination of International Technical Assistance, and the directors of CIDA later this month. (See story on page 20)

- *How do you foresee the role of the Ukrainian community here in Canada evolving in the future vis-à-vis Ukraine?*

It was not by chance that Canada became the first western country to recognize an independent Ukraine, nor that President Kuchma chose Canada as the destination of his first international state visit. It was here that the G-7 countries gathered to discuss assistance

for Ukraine's economic transformation, as well as a list of other topics vital to our country.

To a large extent, all this happened thanks to the Ukrainian community in Canada. And although Ukraine will soon be celebrating its fifth anniversary of independence - five years during which time much has been accomplished on the road to a democratic and economically developed country - we greatly appreciate the sincere and brotherly assistance of Ukrainians beyond our borders. Ukraine needs your support for the continuation of our political and economic restructuring.

Notwithstanding our difficult times, Ukraine is also concerned about those Ukrainians who live beyond our borders.

We want to help them to preserve our language and culture, and to let them know that Ukraine needs them and that they are important to Ukraine.

Ukrainians are to be found in many senior positions in large and small companies, businesses and banks. They are remarkably active in the social, cultural and political arenas at all levels -- municipal, provincial, and federal. They are also in educational institutions and community organizations. Therefore, we must develop broad ties with the diaspora, and, in my opinion, business provides an excellent basis for such cooperation.

- *Since the opening of Ukraine's first Embassy here in Ottawa on Dec. 1, 1992, we have seen the number of Embassy staff multiply. Can you tell us about the size and scope of the Embassy now?*

In spite of Ukraine's current difficulties, Ukraine regards her relationship with Canada as a priority in the development of her foreign policy.

Accordingly, Ukraine has a full diplomatic presence in Canada, which includes all aspects of cooperation between our two countries: political, economic, trade, science and technology, education, culture, and military matters.

Our desire to develop our relations with Canada demands that we maintain an appropriate diplomatic presence. At this time, there are 12 diplomats responsible for the sectors I mentioned earlier. While originally, there were only four diplomats -- a Counsellor-Minister, an economic advisor, a secretary responsible for consular matters, and a secretary for education and culture -- we

have now added a secretary in science and technology, one in administration (judicial matters), and one assistant (junior diplomat). Still, this is not a large number. We also have military attachés, while there are no Canadian military attachés in Kyiv. There is also our trade and economic mission, that generally function on their own, rather than within the actual Embassy.



It is true that the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv has more diplomats; I would like to see us match those numbers here in Canada.

See also: "On the Edge" Ambassador Westdal addresses Canadians, page 30.

We've moved!

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