



tactics of on how to induce Ukraine to stay their course, and the (ultimate) goal remains the same - to draw Ukraine back in.

There is also a largely unknown decree of President Yeltsin "On Russia's Strategic Course in Respect to CIS Countries", which clearly states these intentions of Russia, with instructions for the executive structure to do everything to drag these countries, certainly including Ukraine, into defence, political and other types of alliances. This decree is in fact aimed primarily at Ukraine. Unfortunately, Russia does not change its attitudes, or changes them very slowly. Most striking is that it creates a disadvantage for Russia itself.

The Ukrainian military today has one objective -- to defend our statehood and guarantee sovereignty. However, we face many challenges: to conduct reforms, to adopt a new structure. Reorganization of our military will require a major reduction in numbers of soldiers, and this must be done in such a way as to minimize the impact on our society and our military. We cannot lay off our officers, without providing them with solid guarantees. Maintaining military capacity and readiness is also an issue. You know that all the countries are downsizing their forces - this is also being done in Canada. However, military efficiency is taken into account. Downsizing is acceptable when military capacity is taken into account. In Ukraine this is not being done. This is a difficult situation, particularly because we gave up our nuclear arms. How did that affect our

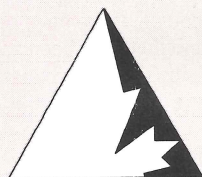
country's readiness for action? We gave up tactical nuclear weapons. We got rid of strategic missiles. All this counts. No matter how you calculate, the net result is still a decrease. It is very important for Ukraine to take everything into account, so that we will not just conduct mechanical downsizing, but account for military capacity in order to remain a force which can guarantee the inviolability of our borders.

Historically, the tragedy of Ukraine has been and continues to be the fact that we are situated geographically at a strategic military location and have always lived in a confrontational environment. It is possible that Ukraine will once again find itself in a military crossfire. We would not want this to happen to us again. We must maintain our own armed forces. There is no question that military strength draws respect. I shared the opinion that it was necessary to transfer the strategic nuclear weapons. Ukraine is not interested in having weapons aimed at the United States, Canada or the other industrialized countries. We honestly held up our end of the agreement under the Nuclear NPT. Ukraine has demonstrated its goodwill and now we are expecting the world to react accordingly. Unfortunately all this does not correspond to reality. We see that big countries - United States, NATO [countries], etc. - generally treat us favourably, that they have some understanding of Ukraine. However, this does not always hold true, and I

would like to give one concrete example: Chernobyl.

Last year world attention was drawn to the nuclear reactor in North Korea. They had plutonium enough for one or one and a half nuclear bombs. The world community gave them \$4 billion to close this reactor and build a new one almost without a word. Roads were built and fuel is already being delivered. Now let's look at the situation of Chernobyl in Ukraine. Plutonium is boiling in the reactors here as well - its amount is many times higher than in North Korea. Here is the dilemma: Ukraine is already being treated as a civilized country which no longer poses a threat. Yet, because of our positive disposition, we have failed so far to get proper monetary compensation, and Ukraine's realistic requests for the terms of closure of Chernobyl have been scaled down substantially. It never ceases to amaze me how slowly the West responds to Ukraine.

That's why it's so important to us to develop contacts with western countries, particularly Canada and the U.S. Our special relationship with Canada in military matters is helping to build new bridges for Ukraine's international cooperation and partnership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Canadian Department of National Defence for working with us and supporting us.



CANADA-UKRAINE COOPERATE IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As Ukraine moves from a traditional centralized nuclear war-oriented civil defence posture to one more responsive to peacetime natural and technological disasters, the Ukrainian civil defence organization has become eager to learn from Western experience in this field. At the same time, the Department of National Defence, through Emergency Preparedness Canada (EPC), has undertaken a program of assistance to help the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe develop modern and viable emergency preparedness and response organizations.

Ukraine's contact with Canada in this area began with the presence of Ukrainian officials at the first Canadian-sponsored seminar on "Emergency Preparedness in Western Industrialized Society" held in Germany in 1992. Since then, the relationship has been flourishing. Ukrainian and Canadian officials have attended each other's subsequent seminars. These have included the following seminars: "Earthquake and nuclear emergency preparedness" (Cdn. sponsored), Germany, 1993; "Transportation of Dangerous Goods" (Canada-Czech sponsored), Czech Rep., 1994; "Flood Mitigation" (Ukraine sponsored), Kyiv, 1995; "Emergency Legislation" (Canada-Poland sponsored), Warsaw, 1995. A number of high-level visits have taken place in both directions, and in March of 1994, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Canada and Ukraine on the exchange of emergency preparedness information.

In the immediate future, this cooperation will be continued with

the provision of training for four officials of the Civil Defence Department of Ukraine and the Council of Ministers of Ukraine at the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College in Arnprior, Ontario. They will be in Canada for five weeks and will take a complete series of courses starting with the Basic Emergency Preparedness Course, followed by others on the management of an Emergency Operations Centre, the development of emergency exercises, emergency public information, emergency site management, and emergency telecommunications.

During this time period, Emergency Preparedness Canada will host a one week visit by Lieutenant General Victor Grechaninov, Chief of the Civil Defence Department of Ukraine. He will be introduced to a variety of emergency preparedness and response activities in the Ottawa area, as well as to the Ontario Hydro nuclear power generating station in Toronto.

In addition to these purely bilateral activities, Canada is also involved with Ukraine through the Civil Protection Committee (CPC) of the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC) of NATO. Eric Shipley, Executive Director of EPC, is currently Chairman of the CPC. He has accepted an invitation from Lt. Gen. Grechaninov to hold the September 1996 CPC Symposium and a CPC Meeting with Partners in Kyiv.

The field of emergency preparedness is proving to be another area of increasingly close ties between Canada and Ukraine. The upcoming visits and training seminars will undoubtedly work to strengthen these ties even further.