

## Third Annual Canada-Ukraine Strategic Seminar

by Ben Lombardi

The Canadian Department of National Defence (DND) maintains a broad array of programmes designed to assist the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with their ongoing political and economic reforms. Administered under the Military Training and Assistance Programme (MTAP), DND offers military officers and some civilian defence specialists the opportunity to come to Canada for language training (in both English and French), specialised professional development and the chance to enrol in courses at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre. This \$9.4 million (1997) programme is financed directly from the Canadian defence budget. While the total size of this programme may seem small when compared with comparable US efforts, the MTAP represents a substantial commitment of Canadian resources to Central and Eastern Europe.

### The Annual Seminar: Broad-based Participation

Given its friendly relations with Canada, Ukraine has been an active participant in MTAP-sponsored courses. Indeed, Ukraine is the largest single recipient of MTAP funding in Central and Eastern Europe, a status reflecting both its geopolitical significance and the complexity of the problems it currently faces. Since 1996, 103 Ukrainian officers have undergone language training, or have attended courses relevant to defence reform. In 1998, it is expected that a further 54 Ukrainians will come to Canada under the auspices of MTAP.

However, Canada-Ukraine defence relations are not based solely on Ukrainians coming to Canada. In 1995, the two countries decided that a regular dialogue on mutual security concerns was both warranted and necessary. Acting upon the suggestion of the then Ambassador to Canada, the late Victor Batiuk, the two defence ministries created what has now become an annual bilateral seminar. In 1995, the first seminar was convened in Kingston; in 1996, Kyiv was the host; and, in late September 1997, the discussion returned to Kingston's Fort Frontenac.

While DND conducts military staff talks with a number of countries, this seminar is unique. Unlike staff talks, which generally only include defence officials, the

Canada-Ukraine Strategic Seminar has a much broader base of participation. Both the Canadian and Ukrainian delegations have included defence and foreign ministry officials, as well as members of the two countries' academic communities (see photo).

### Kingston 97: Wide-Ranging Exchanges

The Third Annual Canada-Ukraine Strategic Seminar took place from 22 to 25 September with the following Ukrainian participants: Major-General Mykola Dzubak (Deputy-Chief of the Ukrainian General Staff), Andriy Veselovsky (Deputy Head of Policy Planning at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry), Dr. Hryhoriy Perepelytsia (National Institute of Strategic Studies), Olexiy Rybak (Foreign Ministry), Ivan Kholostenko (National Security and Defence Council), Dr. Serhiy Galaka (Institute of Foreign Relations and International Law) and Dr. Oleg Bodruk (Institute of the World Economy and Foreign Relations). Ambassador Volodymyr Furkalo and Colonel Olexandr Shemet, the Ukrainian military attache in Canada, also took time from their busy schedules in Ottawa to attend and participate.

The Canadian delegation consisted of

Daniel Bon (Director-General of Policy Planning in DND), Kenneth Ready (Director-General, International Industrial Programmes at DND), Andrew Rasiulis (DND), Lieutenant-Colonel David Bashow (Visiting Defence Fellow at Queen's University), Elizabeth Baldwin-Jones (Foreign Affairs), Louis-Phillip Sylvestre (Foreign Affairs), Graeme McIntyre (Foreign Affairs), Carol-Ann Alphonse (DND), Major Borys Gengalo (DND), Dr. Ben Lombardi (DND), as well as the four moderators for the seminar sessions. Moreover, this year the two defence ministries agreed to the participation of a respected member of the Canadian business community in Ukraine, Victor Pergat, and the foreign affairs editor of the Toronto Star, Gordon Barthos.

The seminar was, by all accounts, a success. During the previous seminars, the two delegations were often reserved in their discussions. This time, however, the exchanges were candid and wide-ranging. As one might expect, important differences of opinion on particular subjects exist between the two countries. However, a remarkable similarity of views also emerged.

The seminar was structured around four sessions over two days. The first day was devoted to international security matters, and was divided into a discussion con-



*Seminar participants. First row (l-r): Marina Shevchenko (interpr.); Elizabeth Baldwin-Jones; Andrew Rasioulis; Daniel Bon; MGen. Mykolay Dzubak; Stella Hryniuk; Andriy Veselovsky; Graeme McIntyre. Second row: Carol-Ann Alphonse; Maj. Boris Gengalo; Lcol. David Bashow; Gen. Victor Pergat; Dr. Roman Jakubow; Olexiy Rybak; Gordon Barthos; Oleg Bodruk; Vasili Kosenko (interpr.). Third row: Ivan Kholostenko; Capt. Grigoriy Perepelitsa; David Haglund. Fourth row: Olexiy Tsiiovkh (interp.); Dr. Ben Lombardi; Sergiy Galaka; Louis-Philippe Sylvestre; Col. Olexander Shemet.*