



Without political and economic change, Ukraine's rich, natural and human resources risk being wasted in a futile effort to preserve outdated enterprises and institutions that no longer respond to the needs of a changing society.

Serious economic reform is needed before international financial institutions can disburse the money that they have set aside for Ukraine, thereby encouraging foreign investors to take an interest in the resources and highly qualified workers of Ukraine.

I know that the participants in this course and many other reform-minded Ukrainians are doing all that they can to move their country toward democracy and a market economy. We want to support those efforts.

We are anxious to have Ukraine become a faithful trading partner. Thus, we are offering General Preferential Tariff treatment and providing advice and hands-on development assistance through the Trade Facilitation Office.

Total trade stands at over \$40 million dollars so far this year. We want to see that grow. The first-ever Canada-Ukraine Trade Agreement is almost complete, and we will be following that up with an economic co-operation agreement.

My Department's Renaissance Eastern Europe program has financed 25 feasibility studies for Canadian-Ukrainian joint

ventures. We need to get these private-sector ventures off the ground. I am interested in the idea of a government-industry partnership to invest in jobs and growth in both countries, and I welcome your input.

We want to expand Canada's \$30 million technical-assistance program, which has already generated more than 50 projects. Our support for the Institute for Public Administration and Local Government is helping Ukraine to build the institutions that modern independent states need.

Other Canadian projects include: improving health care, providing the tools for agricultural reform, planning the clean-up of a major river in your country and encouraging private-sector development.

There are many ways that Canadians, and particularly those of you here today, can work with government to help Ukraine. I encourage you to explore initiatives, like our Partners in Progress program or Canadian Executive Services Organization.

The first half of 1994 will decide Ukraine's future. We are ready to send observers for next spring's elections and are preparing to do much more for democratic development.

Ukraine's electoral commission will soon be receiving our offer of training, assistance in voter education and advice on media coverage.



*Paul Émile Blouin, Deputy Minister of International Affairs for Quebec, describes special relationship between Ukraine and Quebec. (See page 10 for full text.)*

We now have the tools for managing our growing relationship: Canada's Embassy in Kyiv is up to full strength, operating from its renovated chancery and supported by a Canadian Co-operation Office to assist with technical assistance projects.

The Ukrainian Embassy is well-established in Ottawa. We were honoured to have as first Ambassador, the distinguished human rights activist Levko Lukianenko. Today, I can tell you that we have given agreement to his successor, Mr. Victor Batyuk, currently Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations.

Recognizing the importance of the Ukrainian-Canadian community to developing our relations with Ukraine, I have asked my Department to hold special consultations as soon as possible.

Today I outlined what we are doing, bilaterally and with our Western partners. You know now how this government wants the Canada-Ukraine relationship to develop. We cannot do it on our own. Reform is ultimately up to Ukraine and its people. Canada has a unique advantage in helping to make that happen -- your energy, experience, commitment and ideas. I wish you all every success.



*Foreign Minister André Ouellet at Quebec-Ukraine luncheon meeting in Montreal.*