



## NEWSBRIEFS

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### INTERNATIONAL & BILATERAL POLITICS

#### VISIT OF ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER DAVID WRIGHT TO KYIV

David Wright, the Assistant Deputy Minister from the Department of Foreign Affairs led a Canadian delegation on a three day official visit to Kyiv on January 23, 1994. Members of the delegation included the Director of the Nuclear Security Division, Mr. Allan Cullen, the Director of the East European Division, John DiGangi and the Director of the Trade Division Steven Milner. The objective of the visit was to discuss the texts of the political and economic agreements, Canada-Ukraine relations, regional conflicts, in particular, the Yugoslav conflict, peacekeeping questions and also the relations of Ukraine with the CIS and the G-7 countries. The consultations are taking place in preparation for an official visit by Canadian Foreign Minister André Ouellet to Ukraine.

In the past six months the relations between Canada and Ukraine have taken on larger dimensions with the intensification of bilateral relations. Ukraine is a serious economic partner of Canada, and consequently the expansion of mutual relations may have strategic significance. With Canada's plans to review its foreign policy and defence priorities, there are definite plans on the part of the Canadian government to raise Canada-Ukraine relations to the level that it should be -- or, as Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet has stressed, to the level of a direct partnership.

#### TRADE MISSIONS EXTENDED

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a resolution on Jan. 3, 1994, which provides for the extension of

Ukrainian trade missions abroad. Priorities are to be given to the establishment of these missions in Canada, the United States, Moldova, France, Switzerland and Poland.

#### CRIMEA: TEST CASE FOR RUSSIA

In early January, Russia signed an agreement with the United States and Ukraine, guaranteeing Ukraine's present borders as one of the conditions for Ukraine's agreement to dismantle its nuclear weapons. Crimea, the exotic Black Sea peninsula that has been an integral part of the territory of Ukraine since 1954, held run-off elections on Jan. 30, in which the vote was carried by Yuri A. Meshkov, who favours closer ties with Russia rather than Ukraine. Although the 2.5 million population consists largely of ethnic Russians, the 700,000 Ukrainians and 300,000 Tatars have refused to acknowledge the vote. Many of the Tatars have recently returned to their former homelands at the invitation of Ukraine's President Kravchuk, after decades of exile by Stalin throughout the former Soviet Union. The question for most Ukrainians now is not whether Russia will physically stay out of the Crimea, but whether or not it intends to honour the spirit of their accord and refrain from agitating and otherwise provoking the unsettled population of this region of Ukraine by economic or political interference. Will Russia confirm the fears of many Ukrainian parliamentarians for the territorial integrity of Ukraine even before the ink is dry?

#### CANADA TO LEVY TARIFFS ON STEEL

OTTAWA...Canada will levy preliminary tariffs of between 38 and 84 percent on certain kinds of imported steel after an investigation by Revenue Canada found that steel has been sold in Canada below the cost of production. The steel in

question is carbon steel plate from Italy, South Korea, Spain and Ukraine.

In its investigation, Revenue Canada found that Ukraine was selling 76 per cent below cost. Revenue Canada said it will levy the appropriate tariffs on future imports of carbon steel to offset the dumping discounts.

#### UKRAINE CARRIES OUT FIRST LAND AUCTION IN KHARKIV

Ukraine carried out its first land auction in the eastern industrial city of Kharkiv, Ukrinform news agency reported on January 21. Two plots of 1,500 square meters and one of 2,500 square meters in the city centre were leased for 50 years for the total sum of 1.53 billion karbovanets (\$41,350). Some western companies took part in the auction, which was held with the help of the U.S. International Development Agency. Although six other plots remained unleased, Kharkiv authorities praised the experiment and said the city would hold regular land auctions.

#### UKRAINE'S TOP NEGOTIATOR DENOUNCES RUSSIAN STAND ON NATO

KYIV...Ukraine's top arms negotiator denounced Russian objections to East European states joining NATO, saying every country in the region had the right to decide for itself. Following a visit to Germany and Poland, Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk said that he backed Warsaw's bid to join the Atlantic alliance. Ukraine has not yet formally announced its intentions of becoming a member. "Every state in Europe has the right to choose whatever meals it wants to defend its security," he said. "No single state has the right or should have the