



To speak frankly, such feelings did not skip Ukraine, which declared without delay its readiness to cooperate honestly and openly with every interested partner. But our State has felt the understanding of its position by the world community just recently, after having made persistent efforts. At the same time, the reality of the current situation of Ukraine consists of the fact that so far we still are under pressure and suspicion from the outside, and sometimes encounter open reluctance to understand the essence of problems we face. It makes the current, yet difficult economic situation in the country, much more complicated and hinders the process of market reforms.

Today, Ukraine takes on a difficult task to overcome the economic crisis, normalize the social and economic situation, create favourable domestic and international conditions for gradually raising living standards of population. The President and the new Government are focusing their efforts exactly in this direction. But let me note that the problem of Ukraine's overcoming the economic crisis also has an international dimension because, owing to its geopolitical situation, the establishment of Ukraine as a sovereign and economically powerful State is one of the important factors of securing peace and stability on the European continent. So, there are all reasons to assert that political and especially economic support

for Ukraine is a reliable "investment" into the strengthening of international security. These realities are being gradually realized and the discussion of "Ukrainian question" at Naples summit of the "Great Seven" is one of the evidences of such a trend.

The existence of a group of countries in transition to market economy has become a reality of current international relations. Ukraine is also a part of that group. Our experience proves that the period of transformations will not go smoothly, will last a long time and necessitate considerable efforts, including international ones. However, there is no other alternative. Precisely these aspects of statecraft will be the focus of President Kuchma's attention during his policy statement which he shortly intends to make in the Parliament. I would also like to note that the difficult economic situation in our country, not least of all, accounts for the tremendous financial burden of nuclear disarmament and liquidation of the Chernobyl disaster consequences. And these problems are not just Ukrainian. They also have global dimension. In this context a positive development consists of the fact that problems of countries in transition to market economies are gradually taking their due place in the versatile activities of the UN and its specialized agencies.

However, it seems that donor-States, when

declaring their support for the implementation of reforms in countries in transition, nevertheless are too cautious in providing adequate support to specific projects in Eastern Europe and CIS countries. Such an attitude is becoming a serious problem.

We are also expecting target-oriented activities of the international community, aimed at creating favourable conditions for free access to the world market for exports from countries of this region, particularly Ukraine. In this context Ukraine welcomes the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and firmly intends to accede to GATT/WTO system. We hope that this system will promote trade liberalization and facilitate the creation of an open and transparent trade system. After all, intensification of international trade is an integral part of economic development.

Mr. President,

Being a European country we are, first of all, concerned with the problem of security in Europe, in the wide sense of this word. I would like to express some views as to Ukraine's vision of ways toward safeguarding peace and stability on this continent.

Difficulties of forecasting in this field of international relations account for a number of new risks and challenges to security caused by political, economic, inter-ethnic and other contradictions. They have already generated a wave of conflicts Europe was not ready to respond to adequately.

Anxiety on the European continent clearly shows itself in continued searches for a new machinery for ensuring States' security in Eastern and Central Europe, of which Ukraine is also a part. And the point is not that appropriate structures to strengthen security in Europe do not exist. Activities of the CSCE, NATO, Western European Union (WEU), North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) and searches for collective security of CIS countries are being made. But no one of these structures is able, for different reasons, to fill adequately the military and political vacuum which appeared in this region after the disintegration of the USSR and Warsaw Treaty.

That is why Ukraine strongly supports initiatives aimed at all-European cooperation in different fields, including security.

HENNADI UDOVENKO

Ukraine's new Foreign Affairs Minister, Hennadi Udovenko, was confirmed by the Ukrainian Parliament on September 15, 1994. He is a seasoned diplomat with a rank of an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Udovenko, 63, spent most of his career in the civil service and is proficient in Ukrainian, Russian, English, French and Polish. From 1977-1980, he held important posts at the United Nations Secretariat in New York and from 1965-1971 -- at the UN Office in Geneva. Between 1980-1985, he was Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; and 1985-1992, he served as Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the UN. Since September 1992, he has been Ambassador of Ukraine to Poland.

Udovenko has represented Ukraine at numerous sessions and conferences of the UN and other international organizations. He chaired sessions of the UN General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council, and was elected chairman of Economic as well as Special Political committees of the UN General Assembly. He also served as a Representative of the Government of Ukraine to the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization.

Udovenko was born in 1931 in the city of Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, into a working class family. In 1954, he graduated from the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv University, in the Faculty of International Relations. In 1958-59, he took a post-graduate course at the Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Economy and Agriculture.

Married to a wife who is a biologist, he has an adult daughter and grandson.