



Diplomats and guests meet at a recent reception in Ottawa to celebrate the 4th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence. L-r: Newly-appointed Ambassador to Ukraine Christopher Westdal; Patricia Campbell, Head of Technical Assistance Programs for Ukraine at CIDA; Lubomyr Marchuk, Director of the Canada-Ukraine Partners Office in Kyiv; Madame Sheila Hayes, spouse of Canada's Ambassador; Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Victor Batiuk; Madame Alevtyna Batiuk.

Ukrainian delegation to gain support for treaty permanence.

Life on the edge has never been easy for Ukraine. It is not easy now. But the prospects for secure space have not been better for centuries than they are now... Make hay while the sun shines. Ukraine has the chance now, through strengthening its links to the West, through the continued skilful management of its neighbourly relations, through its provisions for its own defence and through the careful management of its relations with Russia, which will of course, remain close - and must be mutually beneficial - ... through these means, Ukraine can now make a lot of hay, Ukraine can steadily enhance its prospects for enduring security. Indeed, the current challenges to Ukrainian independence arise as much from within, in the realm of the spirit, than they do from external threat. And which Canadian, particularly one from the West, like me, could ever doubt the stamina of the Ukrainian spirit. It is with some realistic confidence, therefore, that we can toast Ukraine's security.

To a Ukraine which succeeds further - and soon; the worst looks like being over - in the wrenching transformation to free markets and democracy, which achieves growth and prosperity through the ever more fruitful deployment of its manifest of resources,

the wealth of its land - not least the richest swath of topsoil on the planet - and the proven talents of its hard-working people... a Ukraine which continues to accommodate diversity and respect the rights of minorities, a Ukraine which gives expression to its peoples yearning for freedom and rights... a Ukraine which completes the immense, uniquely difficult, task of constructing - on the run, from scratch, now - a sound national government in place of the agencies of foreign power of the past... a Ukraine which accedes to the World Trade Organization and finds commercial opportunity in investment and trade with its neighbours and beyond, with Canada, in sectors we have already done much to explore... and, I should add, because it is so timely, a Ukraine which heals the still open wound of Chernobyl (with help from the G-7, presently led by Canada; we hope agreement might be reached before our G-7 chairmanship ends at the end of the year.) There is, I believe, good ground for hope as we toast Ukrainian prosperity.

To a Ukraine with a close friend in the world, a particular bond with Canada, the home of so many whose family roots are in Ukraine and who found here - but not without struggle - freedom and opportunity and hard won success. My study of your history here and that of your ancestors has

already given me some understanding of how much friendship between Canada and Ukraine means, how deeply it is felt by a people who have been very lonely in what has for centuries - particularly this one now ending - been a very rough neighbourhood.

Our relations with Ukraine are not made special by labelling them so. They are made special by vision and hard work, founded on shared interests. They are made special by your concern and your commitment.

I was told that there has been some speculation about the *raison d'etre* of that commitment, doubt about purpose of your organizations, now that Ukraine is at last free. That speculation, that doubt, if any, should be put to rest. There has never been more point in your commitment, never more need to reach out to Ukraine, to strengthen its links to the West, to help it fulfill the promise of its new, precious freedom.

I feel privileged to have a role to play in this drama. I will do my best to represent you and all Canadians well in Ukraine. My determination is reinforced by my experience here today.

I am much honoured by this responsibility - and I am much honoured to ask you now to join me, raising a glass, to a secure and prosperous Ukraine, with a good friend, Canada, in the world. A toast then, please join me...

“To a SECURE and PROSPEROUS UKRAINE, WITH A GOOD FRIEND, CANADA, IN THE WORLD.”

PRESIDENT KUCHMA AT UNITED NATIONS

New York, Oct. 22, 1995.. Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma addressed the opening celebrations honouring the UN on its 50th birthday. More than 100 world leaders attended, and a special jubilee session of the General Assembly voted on a 50th Anniversary declaration. *The translated text of Mr. Kuchma's address is given on page 59.*

