



UKRAINE'S AMBASSADORS MEET IN KYIV (1)

BACK ROW (L-R): Oleksander Vorobyov (Bulgaria); Hryhoriy Khorujhiy (G.C. Munich); Yuriy Malko (C.d'A, Belgium); Mykola Spys (G.C. Tumen, Russia); Victor Pashchuk (Argentina); Ihor Pushkin (G.C. Istanbul); Volodymyr Chorniy (temp.C.d'A. Latvia); Mykhailo Dashkevych (Japan); Vasyl Shevchenko (M.F.A., Odessa); Victor Kyryk (G.C. Chicago); Petro Andriyenko (M.F.A.); Victor Nahaychuk (temp. C.d'A. Egypt).

MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Yevhen Levytskiy (temp. C.d'A. Moldova); Petro Sardachuk (Poland); Oleh Semenets (United Arab Emirates); Heorhiy Khodorovskiy (India); Mykola Makarevych (Austria); Anatoliy Orel (Italy); Oleksander Chaliy (Romania); Ihor Turianskiy (Turkey); Yuriy Kostenko (Germany); Oleksander Hnidykh (temp.C.d'A. Spain); Oleksander Nikonenko (temp. C.d'A. Brazil); Anatoliy Shostak (Croatia).

FRONT ROW:(L-R): Vadim Chuprun (Turkmenistan); Volodymyr Fedorov (Russia); Andriy Ozadovskiy (Czech Republic); Volodymyr Jheliba (Belorus); Leonid Kuchma (President of Ukraine); Hennadiy Udoenko (Minister of F.A.); Boris Tarasiuk (Belgium, First Dep. Min.); Volodymyr Khandohiy (Dep. Min.); Oleksander Slipchenko (Switzerland)

(G.C.: General Consul, C.d'A.: Chargé d'Affaires; M.F.A.: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; Dep. Min.: Deputy Minister)

There's also a third priority, the problem of residential construction. As you were driving from Borispil, you must have seen how much construction is under way. I drive past that myself in amazement: How much is being constructed! Yet, we still have people standing in line, waiting for years to get an apartment. Because, unfortunately, a situation has been created, where government-owned apartments are being privatized, received free of charge, then sold. And people do not trade in coupons, but dollars.

• **Do you believe that the economic situation is stable enough to allow incoming Canadian entrepreneurs to conduct their operations?**

I can say that we are just in the beginning phase of true economic reforms. Everybody would agree with that, including the President. We are laying the foundations for further, more confident development and implementation of

economic reforms. At the moment we are experiencing a fairly difficult period in the economic sense. The privatisation process is going painfully and inconclusively. The necessary structures are now in the process of active development.

I know that today, in principle, a favourable atmosphere and environment for Canadian business exist. There has to be no hesitation, because we are losing time. Businessmen do not realize that we are going through a natural process, through what is happening now in our society. And if you are going to wait, you can lose time, and miss opportunities. So whoever comes first into Ukraine will get better arrangements than those who are late.

• **You have said that you wanted more relations of a cultural and educational nature. Could you maybe give me an example?**

Before 1992 there were many interesting events with the participation of Ukrainian representatives. Today I don't see many such significant events as foreign tours of professional Ukrainian troupes. In British Columbia and Vancouver, we were actively working with people who had prospects for our large troupes. The Odessa Opera and Ballet theatre - their ballet troupe was there, and I was with them too, 'Dumka' - the bandurist choir - and others. Now something has happened. We need more activity in this field in Canada and the United States. I feel that the economic situation is partly responsible here but we have to somehow bring this about together through exchange programs. This is an urgent matter - let us make our own, Canadian-Ukrainian program of exchanges. Then let's work out a program and implement, at the government level, two-three projects, which can then be facilitating private initiatives.