

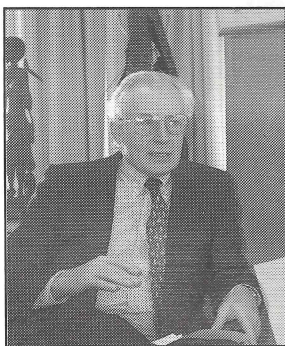


If you look at the emerging economies of Central and South America - Yes. But if you look at Africa - No. Because you have a difference. You have to fit your program according to the requirements of the area in which you are working. At this time, we are continuing to review what happened last year, for example, with the CUP program. We are just now starting another phase of this program. We will try to make this phase more focused than the previous one. That's what we will be trying to do in all our projects under the new strategy that we are preparing. We will be working in terms that are focused more precisely, so that we can see results more easily.

Within the new generation of programs that will start in the new fiscal year, you will see a change in the nature of programs. This will depend very much on the content of our strategy and how it will be received by our partners. We will focus the technical assistance - cooperation program to bring it closer to the reform process that is taking place now in Ukraine. Your next issue will be just in time to publish our strategy, as well as an overview of the projects.

- *One of the things we do is to highlight the achievements and results of the technical assistance program. Yet sometimes we find it difficult to see how certain projects tie into the program and where the program is heading...*

You really hit the mark on why, I believe, it is important for us to have our strategy document: to provide a clearer direction for our projects. If you look at where this



(technical assistance) program started -- it was from nowhere -- from a lot of needs originating in Ukraine. What we did in Canada was to respond as quickly as possible to what we considered important needs. These required urgent addressing, but they didn't actually fit into any pattern. So, one of them could have been in the nuclear area, another in the municipal area, still others in the industrial and agricultural areas. But,



Central and Eastern Europe Branch at CIDA. Seated, l-r: Paule Parent, George Saibel (Director), Charles Bassett (Vice President), Monika Vadeboncoeur, Norah Patriquin. Standing, l-r: Maury Miloff, Roger Lucy, Réal Lalande, Bill Singleton. Absent: danielle Rondeau.

there was no homogeneity in what we were trying to do. I say that as a statement of fact. That was the situation that existed at the time.

But we have now evolved to the point where we can be much more mature in our relationship. We can say, OK, how do we bring this into a greater focus so that we end up having a greater impact. Instead of accomplishing a little here and a little there, can we bring it all together into a somewhat more concentrated form of program, one that is going to have a much greater Canadian impact on the evolution of Ukraine?

The nuclear area is a good example. The G-7 Chernobyl Agreement signed on Parliament Hill just before Christmas, was an enormously significant event, not just for Ukraine or for Canada, but for the whole world. This is a major step forward, and we were able to play a significant part by providing the funding for Ukraine to accomplish some of its activities. This, in turn, gave it the confidence it needed to get to the point of saying, Yes, we will sign this undertaking on Chernobyl.

So, it's a question of how to maximize the impact and link it to Ukraine's own needs. That's where the Canadian-Ukrainian community is very important to us. It is really important to us to be able to utilize the strengths and the capacities of this community to help us deliver a better program.

- *This technical assistance program has seen a lot of changes from its original three-year mandate to the new two-year program. Is that a reflection of the new re-focus from technical assistance to technical cooperation?*

It's a reflection of our requirement to be ready and responsive to the changing needs in the countries in which we are operating. We don't see Ukraine as a static situation. What is happening there now, is evolving so fast. There are some sectors that are taking longer to change, such as agricultural privatization. There are other areas, like the whole nuclear sector, that are transforming rapidly. What I don't want to do is to lock us into 3, 4 or 5 year projects, and find, in year 4, that the situation has changed so much -- that they're no longer the sort of projects or activities that we should be doing. And so, we are trying to proceed with shorter-term projects. If, at the end of two years, we come to the conclusion that what we are doing is on the mark, then we can add another phase to these projects. However, if the situation changes to the point where it really is time to do something different, then we have got to have the flexibility to adapt and cooperate in partnership with Ukraine...

And that's why we call the program now at CIDA -- Canada's Technical Cooperation Program for Ukraine. ➔