

MEMORANDUM SIGNED ON COOPERATION IN HEALTH

Canadian Health Minister David Dingwall and Dr. Andriy Serdiuk, Minister of Health of Ukraine, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in Ottawa Dec. 9, 1996, to promote and facilitate health relations between their two ministries.

This Memorandum will serve as a 3-year framework for cooperative activities in the areas of health, health care delivery systems and medical sciences. It encourages exchanges between government agencies, health institutions, and health professionals. It complements Canada's current program of technical cooperation with Ukraine and highlights Canada's commitment to building a more substantive relationship with Ukraine.

Dr. Serdiuk's visit to Canada was part of a program organized by Health Canada in collaboration with Partners in Health, funded by CIDA, and administered by the Canadian Society for International Health. During his visit, Dr. Serdiuk met with Canadian partners, including representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in Toronto, Regina and Victoria.

"Strengthening the linkages between our

Ministries of Health will support our Ukrainian colleagues in identifying areas and relationships in which Canada could contribute in a significant way to their health reform process," said Mr. Dingwall.

"The Memorandum will promote further health reforms in Ukraine and Ukrainian Canadian cooperation. Numerous joint programs are starting which will increase the medical service level to the Ukrainian people," said Dr. Serdiuk.

Priority cooperative activities include:

- a) organization and management of health service;
- b) planning and development of epidemiological programs;
- c) programs in occupational, industrial and environmental health;
- d) medical education methods and programs with particular emphasis to the delivery of



Health Ministers Dr. Andriy Serdiuk (l) and David Dingwall (r).

- e) control of vaccines and serums, and preventive immunology.

STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL REFORM IN UKRAINE

Ukraine's Justice Minister Serhiy Holovaty, in Canada in September to meet government officials and Ukrainian community leaders, signed a treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters with Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Allan Rock. The Treaty is designed to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the investigation and prosecution of crime by providing the legal basis for authorities in one country to locate and gather evidence for criminal investigations at the request of the

authorities of the other.

Canada has now signed a number of these agreements with other states, including the U.S., U.K., Australia and France, and they are an important step in the fight against organized and transnational crime.

The two Ministers also signed an Understanding in Principle on cooperation in the field of justice, agreeing to offer each other the widest measure of mutual assistance in promoting a better knowledge of their respective systems of justice, and sharing their expertise on issues such as legislative drafting and organization of a ministry of justice.

In Toronto, Minister Holovaty delivered a keynote address at a luncheon hosted by Canada's prestigious Empire Club. He outlined the difficulties and challenges Ukraine faces, the significance of the Constitution as "a crowning achievement in [its] process of transition and change." He sounded a confident and optimistic note in asserting that democracy is alive and well in Ukraine as it faces the 21st century.

A Protocol of Agreement was also signed on Oct. 7, 1996 by the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs Guy Goulard, Minister Holovaty and Judge Petro Shevchuk of the Supreme Court of Ukraine.

This program is to help train judges across Ukraine in the principles of judicial independence, court management and judicial ethics and accountability. It will also strengthen administration of judicial affairs and help develop an autonomous association of judges. Finally, it will develop a corps of judicial trainers, produce instructional materials, establish model court training centres and produce guidelines on judicial ethics and court management.

A delegation of six representatives of Ukrainian Supreme Court and Judicial Council and 13 oblast Court judges will be spending 5 weeks in Canada from February 15 to March 22, 1997.

In related stories, following extensive discussions between Canadian and Ukrainian authorities on the development of a joint judicial cooperation project, Canada announced that it will support an ambitious program to strengthen judicial reform in Ukraine.

The program is being financed by CIDA, which will provide \$1.8 million over the next three years. It is to be managed by the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs (OCFJA), which coordinates the Canadian judiciary's involvement in international cooperation. The OCFJA will seek the support of other Canadian partners in carrying out the project, including the National Judicial Institute, the Association of Canadian Court Administrators, the Canadian Judicial Council, and the Superior Courts and Attorney-Generals of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.



Justice Ministers Serhiy Holovaty (l) and Allan Rock (r).