



ANDREW SHOTT

*Hearty reunion with Speaker of the Senate Gildas Molgat (2nd rt) and former Governor-General Ramon Hnatyshyn.*



*Minister Hennadiy Udovenko addressing the National Press Club in Ottawa.*



*Ministers Udovenko and Axworthy sign bilateral agreements on cooperation in peacekeeping and information-sharing.*

## Signed Agreements:

### Joint Declaration on Peacekeeping

- ◆ Enumerates shared principles that enhance and promote Canadian-Ukrainian bilateral relations through peacekeeping activities;
- ◆ Provides a vehicle for continuing Canadian-Ukrainian cooperation and will develop and expand activities such as the Military Training Assistance Program, which trains Ukrainian military and civilian personnel through courses and joint exercises with Canadians in areas such as search-and-rescue, humanitarian operations and peacekeeping.

### Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Information Sharing

- ◆ Encourages cooperation on disseminating foreign policy information in Canada and Ukraine. Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will consult each other on information distribution concerning mutual foreign policy activities and exchange information products, such as bulletins.

Minister Axworthy announced that a NATO Office will be opening in Kyiv, and that a Canadian will be heading this Office.

Besides NATO enlargement and the proposed Ukraine-NATO special partnership, the Ottawa discussions also dealt with European security, Ukraine's implementation of international arms controls and issues related to regional developments in different parts of the world.

Udovenko emphasized Ukraine's pending NATO agreement -- a formalized cooperative arrangement that stops short of

membership in the alliance. He was able to secure Canada's backing before continuing to the U.S. for negotiations with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"Canada and Ukraine support regional stability and cooperation and the maintenance of international peace and security through this constructive partnership," Axworthy said.

Axworthy stated that Canada strongly supports Ukraine in its efforts to establish a special arrangement with NATO. He said Canada also supports a similar arrangement between Russia and NATO and added that the two agreements will probably be

finalized before NATO's July summit in Madrid.

The NATO agreement is expected to reduce some of the pressure Ukraine feels from Russia. Russian nationalists have been attacking any NATO expansion into the former East Bloc. Addressing the National Press Club in Ottawa, Udovenko said that, while Canada was the first foreign country to recognize Ukrainian independence more than five years ago, "Russia still does not recognize the fact that Ukraine is an independent country."