

Meeting with Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon (2nd from left). At far right - Manitoba Minister of Rural Development Len Derkach; far left - Ambassador Volodymyr Furkalo.

National Defence Minister Young underlined Canada's commitment to Ukraine, emphasizing the continuing military and security cooperation, and announcing the establishment of a Canadian Forces' attaché position at the Canadian embassy in Kyiv.

### PROMOTING BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Minister Udovenko's visit to Canada was intended to promote Canadian investment in Ukraine. He estimated that Ukraine could absorb \$3-4 billion worth of foreign investment but said that since becoming independent in 1991 only half that amount

has flowed into the country from foreign investors.

The visit enabled officials to solidify plans for the major Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative (CUBI '97) in Western Canada from June 14-20, 1997. In addition to a major "Ukraine Investment and Development" Conference in Calgary on June 16, with anticipated participation of Ukraine's Prime Minister, the cities of Calgary, Regina and Winnipeg will host various energy, agriculture and construction sector programs and trade shows for a large delegation of entrepreneurs and senior government officials from Ukraine and Canada.

Ministers Udovenko and Axworthy also

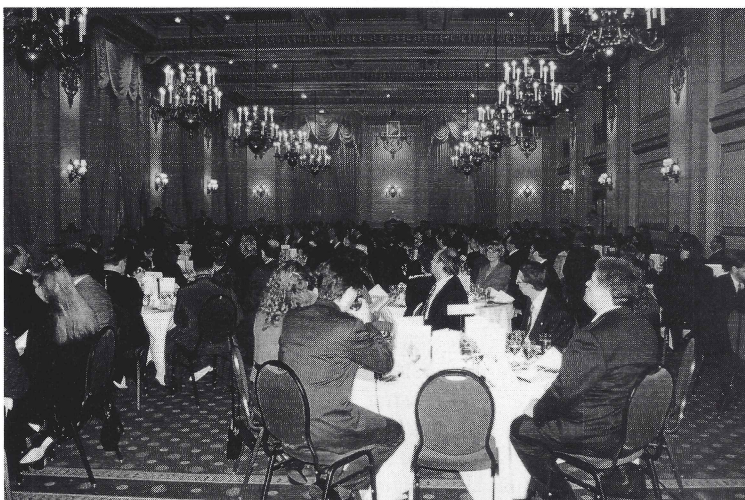
discussed the activities of the Canada-Ukraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC), created last October during Axworthy's Trade Mission to Ukraine, during which some 78 senior business participants from Canada were brought together with their counterparts to resolve issues and expand opportunities for trade. At that time, more than \$600 million in agreements were signed between Canada and Ukraine, both in aid and investments. Calgary will host the second IEC meeting in concert with CUBI '97.

### MEETING MANITOBA PREMIER, SIGNING AGREEMENTS

In Winnipeg, Udovenko delivered a speech to a joint luncheon meeting of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Afterwards, Ministers Axworthy and Udovenko signed two bilateral agreements: on peacekeeping and information sharing. "Although information sharing is part of normal bilateral relations between Canada and many OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] nations, we only began to develop our capacity with Ukraine after the end of the Cold War," said Axworthy. "Canada and Ukraine are now taking a further step to partnership in communications." (See page 3)

After the luncheon, a representative from COREL Corporation presented Minister Udovenko with their Web Graphic Suite software, to be used to develop a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Web Site on the INTERNET.



Addressing guests at dinner given by Min. Axworthy in the ballroom of Winnipeg's Hotel Fort Garry, the same venue as the G-7 Conference on Ukraine during President Kuchma's visit to Canada in 1994.



Winnipeg dance troupe Rusalka entertain Ministers and guests.