

"The demographic situation is very serious," Ukrainian expert Prof. Valentyna Steshenko reported. "Since 1970, average life expectancy has fallen 4.5 years for men and 2.5 years for women," reaching 62 and 73 years respectively. Migration trends continue to be negative, with about 50,000 highly educated specialists emigrating each year. "With the situation continuing to deteriorate, people are going elsewhere to find a better place to live," noted head of the UN Office in Ukraine Pedro Villanueva.

Bank of Canada Visit

Nov. 1997... Bank of Canada Governor Gordon Thiessen visited Kyiv to negotiate cooperation between with Ukrainian and Canadian banks. He met with President Kuchma, Verkhovna Rada Speaker Moroz, Premier Pustovoitenko, and NBU Governor Yushchenko. Thiessen expressed support for making the NBU an independent institution. Kuchma said that the NBU had a very high rating in Europe due to its well-planned monetary policy, and confirmed his intention to create favourable conditions for domestic and foreign investment. Thiessen referred to the high rating the NBU received from the International Union of Central Banks, mostly due to the success that the NBU achieved in stabilizing the hryvnia.

EBRD Meeting in Ukraine: Working up Investments

Feb. 15, 1998... Kyiv hotels have been preparing for the May 1998 European Bank's annual meeting for about a year already. Since then, 2,500 rooms have been certified as meeting the EBRD commission's standards, and Kyiv State Administration is confident that 4,500 will be ready by the meeting. Foreign specialists are helping to train staff at the Kyiv Hotel Institute.

Organizers are ensuring that participants get a good idea of Ukrainian investment opportunities by creating a databank and setting up an exhibition, to be called "Ukraine: A Look at the 21st Century."

Presidential Council on Investments

Jan. 1998... Working Groups on Ukraine's Foreign Investment Advisory Council (FIAC) have been organized to provide a high-level framework for reporting and decision-making on attracting foreign investment into Ukraine.

The FIAC, established by President

Deaths of Prominent Ukrainian-Canadians

Supreme Court Justice John Sopinka

On November 24, 1997, John Sopinka, one of Canada's Supreme Court Justices, died at the age of 64 following an illness from a rare blood disorder. He had always expressed pride in his Ukrainian roots and been active in the Ukrainian community in Canada.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien expressed condolences shared by Canadians: "Canada has lost one of its finest jurists. A quick, innovative mind earned him a place at the very forefront of the Canadian legal community. Through his fine example and learned opinions, Justice Sopinka will continue to be a profound influence on lawyers today and for many years to come."

At his swearing-in, Sopinka paid special tribute to his parents, who came to Canada from Ukraine in 1926. Born in rural Saskatchewan, Sopinka had been one of Toronto's highest-profile courtroom lawyers for almost three decades before being appointed to the Supreme Court. He had vigorously represented the Ukrainian community at the Deschenes

Canadian Diplomat Roman Lischynski

On November 13, 1997, veteran diplomat Roman Lischynski, head of NATO's Mission in Ukraine, was killed in a car accident on Ukraine's Kyiv-Odessa highway.

"Mr. Lischynski made an enormous, enduring contribution to the international community," said Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "To our relations with Ukraine, he brought vision, understanding and energetic competence in the fulfilment of Ukrainian freedom. He played an equally important role in building Ukraine's relations with international security institutions, one of that country's major foreign policy goals."

Lischynski had served as Chargé d'Affaires and Political Counsellor in the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv and had had extensive experience within the Foreign Affairs Department at home and abroad. He had been head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Ukraine. His career included working in the

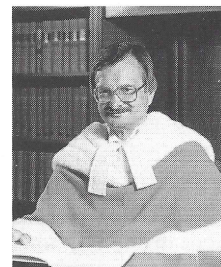
Kuchma last April, comprises 11 Ukrainian members and 21 foreign members, including heads of leading multinational corporations. Northland Power is the sole Canadian firm invited to the Council.

The purpose of FIAC is to facilitate the development and implementation of state policy to attract foreign capital into the Ukrainian economy, apply international experience, and accelerate Ukraine's integration into international markets. The National Agency of Ukraine for Reconstruction and Development acts as the Council's working Secretariat.

President Kuchma addressed the last meeting of the Council last October, emphasizing Ukraine's positive economic perspectives and wealth of resources to foreign in-

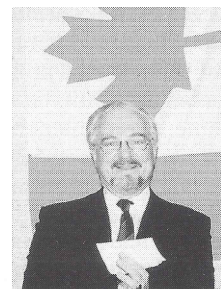
vestment into Nazi war criminals in the early 1980s.

Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine Christopher Westdal praised Sopinka's openness and generosity which evoked trust and friendship: "Sopinka came here (to Kyiv) to speak at a conference on Ukrainian judicial reform. He made time for the visit because he wanted to contribute to essential progress in this land of his ancestors. He was a star at that Conference. His commitment, his clear vision and his plain-spoken eloquence - in English and Ukrainian - were much remarked upon and appreciated. Canadians here were very proud of him. It would be hard to imagine a finer envoy of our country, a more faithful representative of our values."



SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Canadian embassies in Moscow, Bonn and Ankara, the Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions Negotiations in Vienna, and as head of the Soviet section of the Political Intelligence Division in Ottawa.



Ambassador Christopher Westdal praised Lischynski for bringing "a bright and buoyant personality and good cheer to the Canadians living here and to countless Ukrainians. He was a uniquely accomplished Canadian in Ukraine, particularly in its relations to Canada, the OSCE and NATO - because he represented them all with vision, insight, dedication and energetic competence. He did so much for the fulfilment of the freedom of the land of his ancestors."

vestors. The next FIAC meeting is scheduled for May 13, 1998.

1998 Eurasia Foundation Seminars in Canada

The Eurasia Foundation is planning a series of meetings in Ottawa, Edmonton, and Winnipeg during the final week of April 1998 to inform Ukrainian Canadians of its work in Ukraine. The foundation, established in June 1993 with a major grant from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), promotes democracy and market economies in the New Independent States. Its Kyiv Office serves Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.