



job in representing and promoting Canadian interests here in Ukraine.

- *Do you have a specific target date for the official opening of the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv?*

No, but I can certainly say that there will be an official opening within the last few months of this year. It is my wish to have several high officials present from Canada, perhaps even a Minister. Obviously my timetable will have to be adjusted in accordance with the elections in Canada.

- *You mentioned 13 Canada-based staff - what specific areas are you targeting?*

I am talking about trade, administration, political and economic programs. These are all separate programs. There is also immigration and the visitor visa programs, which is a big program for us here.

- *Are there any plans to have a military attache at the Embassy?*

Quite frankly, I wish to have a permanent military attache here in the Ukrainian capital. My previous remarks about the difficulty of finding accommodations and working offices apply. I know that it is a very strong Ukrainian government wish that Canada be represented militarily by a locally resident attache rather than through an attache accredited from Moscow. At the moment, though, I have to be reconciled with the idea that the best solution is temporarily, I hope, to have our military attache from Moscow accredited here.

- *Canada has always wanted to have Ukraine accede to the START agreement and the NPT treaty. In keeping with Canada's deep concern for nuclear disarmament. Do you see any military cooperation agreements being signed between Canada and Ukraine?*

It is certainly a priority for the Canadian government. The government is of the opinion that Ukraine will, sooner rather than later, be faithful to its own word and accede to the non-proliferation treaty and ratify the START I agreement. That said, it is also Canada's wish, as it is the Ukrainian wish, to have in place soon a

military cooperation agreement. Draft agreements have been exchanged on both sides, and I am confident that we will shortly have in place the ingredients for a profitable military exchange agreement. The agreement would not cover the question of security assurances for Ukraine. But the texts that I have seen are much more down-to-earth, more practical. They cover the number of personnel that could be exchanged in a year, who will pay, how will they travel, and these kinds of issues.

- *Canada has shown much exemplary vision when it became the first western country to recognize Ukraine in December 1991. A few months later, Canada, once again, led the other G-7 countries by being the first to extend Ukraine a multi-million dollar line of credit. In keeping with these foreign policy initiatives, do you believe that Canada has extended Ukraine its fair share of Western assistance?*

Of course, as Ambassador here, I think that the support that Canada has given to Ukraine was significant. It can be more, quite obviously, however there were also questions of Ukraine being able to absorb and to use efficiently the additional credits. The fact remains that most of the credit extended by Canada was used to print what eventually will be a new currency in Ukraine - the hryvnia - and this has had a tendency to deprive other sources of investment from looking more seriously at the possibilities of using the line of credit to pursue ventures in Ukraine. But I am confident that this aspect could be looked at in the months to come and perhaps new credits or, at least, new arrangements for credits be worked out.

- *On the whole question of aid to Ukraine, in the past year you have probably seen some of the programs that are in operations between Canada and Ukraine, technical assistance programs through the Bureau for Assistance and the Partners in Progress initiative. Have you witnessed some concrete results as a consequence of these technical assistance programs?*

I certainly have, and as a matter of fact, we will be officially opening the Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO) in Kyiv on September 10, 1993, and we will be holding a press conference to give the Canadian technical assistance programs and projects more profile, more visibility. These programs are certainly success stories in the agricultural field, in the public administration field, in the health sector. Consequently, these successes need to be better known because they are significant and I would like to think that this technical assistance program will soon even be expanded and, of course, this may well mean more Canada-based personnel on the ground here in Kyiv to monitor and to promote this assistance program.

- *This assistance program is scheduled to be completed next year. Is it going to be extended?*

I have every reason to believe that it will be extended and substantially expanded, and that is a very hopeful sign.

- *What about the line of credit, given that Ukraine continues to repay its loans and that there have been requests from Ukraine to make it into a revolving line of credit? Are you considering this option and are you recommending it for the government?*

All I can say is that I have been advocating this approach and that is being considered very seriously back home. They certainly have my support and the reasons for my support. I can confirm indeed that as far as the Canadian line of credit is concerned and the Ukrainian repayment schedule is concerned, everything is on schedule. That adds to the credibility of Ukraine and its ability in making repayments and facilitates the consideration of, perhaps, a revolving line of credit.

- *Can you give us a brief business snapshot of Ukraine and do you believe that Ukraine is a good country to invest in?*