



There are certainly very good possibilities here in Ukraine. However, I must admit that the conditions are difficult at the moment. Ukraine has to control its inflation and simply has to extend more easy access to facilitate investment from abroad. At the moment there are possibilities, and some are being exploited, even by Canadian firms in a number of areas. But the local economic conditions have to stabilize and the investment climate has to become more stable before one can really consider a substantial investment in Ukraine.

- *Without intruding into the politics of Ukraine, is there anything that you recommend to the government and the people that they should be doing?*

The Ukrainian government is being flooded with advice, including much from the Western diaspora. And I do believe that the government faces a very difficult task indeed. It is committed to a market-oriented economy. However it has some social costs, and it is a very difficult balancing act between the two. When you privatize, you soon realize that it may mean unemployment, and perhaps with it some de-stabilizing elements or consequences for many areas of the country, certainly in the Eastern part of Ukraine, the more Russified area. I certainly encourage the government to proceed with economic reform, with the stabilization of its present currency - the karbovanets, which is a temporary one - and become even more accessible to foreign investment through legislation and regulations. At the moment, I can say that there are several success stories of Western investments in Ukraine, but it is not easy for Western entrepreneurs to come to Ukraine, invest and be relatively certain that they and their Ukrainian partners will benefit from it.

- *A comparison can be made between the relationship of Canada and the United States, the proximity of a country that is next to a giant, and the relationship between Ukraine and Russia. What can Canada give as advice to Ukraine in its relationship with its big neighbour Russia?*

The only applicable part of this comparison is the fact that Canada lives

## CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MATHYS ON UKRAINIAN TELEVISION

### CANADA DAY GREETING

It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the invitation to speak to the population of Ukraine, directly on television on Canada's National Day. This is the first time that a Canadian Ambassador is able to do so. I will speak to you in Ukrainian. I hope that you will pardon my accent.

As Canadian Ambassador to Independent Ukraine, I am privileged to represent a country where a large number of Ukrainians have settled. Last year, we celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the first Ukrainian pioneers in Canada. Their contribution, especially in Western Canada, helped build a strong country. Today, Canadian-Ukrainians live in all parts of Canada. We find them in all walks of life. As you know, the Governor General of Canada, Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn, is of Ukrainian descent. He made a splendid visit to Ukraine, last September. Canadian-Ukrainians have made Canada a better place to live. They have established a special bond between Canada and Ukraine.

The Canadian government and people rejoiced when Ukraine became independent in December 1991. Canada was the first Western country to recognize new, independent Ukraine. Ukraine's political independence has now to be matched with economic independence. The legacy of the past renders the task most difficult. Canada stands by Ukraine's side in this extremely difficult period. My government has established an important technical assistance program, which corresponds to priorities determined by Ukraine itself. Canadians are working with Ukrainians in the fields of health care, agriculture, public administration, law and justice and environment. Business links exist and more are being developed.

Canada is also developing cooperation with Ukraine on regional and international issues. Ukraine's active presence in multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council of NATO provides the basis for this new partnership. Ukraine and Canada are both contributing to the UN peacekeeping effort in the former Yugoslavia. We can work effectively together in resolving problems which affect us all.

Canada is closely following the debate on nuclear weapons. We understand Ukraine's specific concerns. Canadians decided decades ago that nuclear weapons do not ensure security. The Non-Proliferation Treaty is the corner-stone to stop and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons. My country has strongly welcomed President Kravchuk's and the Government's assurance that Ukraine will ratify START I and accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state. By accepting this commitment, the Supreme Rada will help build international confidence and enhance regional stability.

Canada wishes Ukraine every success in this difficult period of political and economic transition toward democracy and a market economy. Ukraine is a rich and well-endowed country. The Ukrainian people are hard-working, creative and persevering. On Canada's National Day, Canada and Canadians are happy to celebrate their own achievements and to be associated in making Ukraine a better place to live.

*LONG LIVE CANADA -- LONG LIVE UKRAINE!*

beside an economic giant and that Ukraine lives beside another one. I would not venture that the similarity puts Canada in a position to give any advice to Ukraine.

First of all, the degree of economic integration between Ukrainian and Russian economies, by the very nature of what the Soviet regime had