CANADA TO ASSIST UKRAINIAN ELECTIONS

Ottawa, February 2, 1994 ... Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced a technical assistance package to help Ukraine organize and conduct its first democratic parliamentary elections, March 27. The $2.5-million Canadian initiative is the largest and most comprehensive among international donors.

"These first-ever multiparty elections in Ukraine are of particular interest to Canada since so many Canadians have family and historical ties to the region. We welcome this clear move toward a democratic, pluralist political system and we are committed to helping Ukrainians ensure that this vote is conducted fairly and openly," Mr. Ouellet said.

In response to a Ukrainian request, Canada is supplying 445 tonnes of specialized paper with security features, which will be used to print ballots in Ukraine. An Antonov aircraft will arrive on February 2 at Montreal's Mirabel Airport to take delivery of the third and last shipment of Canadian paper. Canada is also working closely with the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) in Ukraine, providing technical support, training and a team of election observers. A Canadian elections expert is currently in Kyiv to advise the CEC over a three-month period.

One problem facing Ukrainian election organizers is the electorate's lack of experience with multiparty elections. Canada will help finance the printing and distribution of the new election law, as well as a citizen's guide to the law and a guide to campaign organization. Representatives from Elections Canada will train members of the Central Electoral Commission on the importance of public participation and getting out the vote. Canadians will also train both state and independent Ukrainian media on their roles, rights and responsibilities during the election campaign.

BACKGROUNDER: CANADIAN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE IN UKRAINE

Canada's $2.5-million assistance program is designed to assist Ukraine with the organization and conduct of its first-ever multiparty elections, March 27. The assistance is not designed to influence the outcome of the elections. It is intended to help Ukraine ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process and to motivate Ukrainians to vote. The Canadian assistance package is the largest and most comprehensive among international donors and underscores Canada's commitment to democratic reform in Ukraine.

The package has four components:

1) **Technical and Material Assistance for the Electoral Process (Elections Canada, CODE Int.)**
   At the request of the Ukrainian government, Canada is supplying 445 tonnes of specialized paper to Ukraine's Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to be used in printing ballots. The paper has special security features to prevent fraud and tampering. The paper is being shipped to Kyiv for distribution to the local level where the printing and assembly of ballots will occur. Canada has also provided the CEC with a Canadian elections expert who is providing technical, policy and administrative advice for a three month period. In addition, a "training for trainers" session, offered by officials from Elections Canada, is being organized.
2) **Voter/Civic Education (Elections Canada, Ukrainian Legal Foundation)**
   Working with the Ukrainian Legal Foundation, Canada will assist the printing and distribution of the new Elections Law, a Citizens Guide to the Law and a Guide to Campaign Organization. The goal is to counteract voter apathy and lack of knowledge about Ukraine's new electoral law. Elections Canada officials will conduct a seminar with the CEC on getting out the vote and the importance of public participation.
3) **Training of Media in Elections Coverage (Elections Canada, McMaster University/ Niagara Institute)**
   Canada organized a training seminar for the Ukrainian state and independent media on their roles, rights and responsibilities during the election campaign. The seminar, held in Kyiv, was also open to representatives from political parties. A Canadian with expertise in the law and media will provide advice on a short-term basis to the Ukrainian State Television and Radio authority in Kyiv.
4) **Elections Monitors and Observers**
   A small monitoring team will be deployed to Kyiv in early March and a larger team of elections observers will travel to Ukraine 10 days before the vote, to witness the final days of the campaign and the balloting itself. The report of the delegation, along with technical assessments and the observation of Canada's Embassy in Kyiv, will form the basis for Canada's official conclusions on the elections.

right to decide these questions, to have the right of veto over anyone's right to join NATO."

The head of Russia's foreign intelligence service, Yevgeny Primakov, said the day before, that any move by the Alliance to incorporate East European countries would prompt a reappraisal of Moscow's outlook and counter-measures. "If this happens, the need would arise for a fundamental reappraisal of defence concepts on our side, a redeployment of armed forces, a change in operative plans," he added. Although Ukraine has repeatedly proclaimed itself a neutral country, senior politicians have in recent months said joining NATO is a long-term objective. Parliamentary speaker, Ivan Plyushch, Ukraine's second high-ranking official, told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during a recent visit that Ukraine saw future membership as a guarantee of national security.

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UKRAINE ADOPTS ANTI-MONOPOLY PROGRAMME

KYIV...Ukraine's parliament adopted on December 21, 1993 a state anti-monopoly programme which officials said should open the door for market reforms. The programme will come into effect in January 1994, when the government is due to publish a list of state monopolies and ways they can be broken up.

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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ESTABLISHED TO SPUR DEMOCRACY AND REFORM

A new organization has been formed to help bring democracy and reforms to Ukraine. The International Center for Democracy and State Development of Ukraine (ICDSD) whose goal is "to assist in the promotion and implementation of