UKRAINE-CANADA POLICY AND TRADE MONITOR



exchanges, education and sports. Such a close relationship should be clearly set out in a joint agreement signed by both countries.

13. Minority policy

It should be recognized that many international disorders in recent decades have ensued as a consequence of various states having engaged in acts, or having pursued policies, which have violated human rights, in particular minority group rights, within their boundaries or group rights outside of their boundaries. History has shown that states which have persistently violated human rights have, inadvertently, produced or contributed to international disorder. Governments such as Canada's have recognized the importance of minority rights implementation, of multicultural policies, and of putting forth precedent-setting legislation. Ukraine, in its Declaration of November 1, 1991, on the Rights of

Nationalities in Ukraine, declared that the Ukrainian State guarantees equal political, economic, social and cultural rights to all peoples, national groups and citizens living in its territory. These are the principles and ideals that both countries should uphold and respect, The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is concerned about the fate of the Ukrainian minority in Russia and equally concerned about Russia's foreign policy in supporting separatist leaders and groups in Ukraine who clamour for autonomy or a return to Russia. Canada's foreign policy statement should address these disconcerting issues.

Summary

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress believes it is essential for Canada to take fundamental steps towards developing a comprehensive policy on Ukraine that would encompass the recommendations advocated in this brief. By virtue of the large community of people of Ukrainian origin residing in this country, Canada has

a unique capacity to assist and a special responsibility towards Ukraine.

We hope that what we have presented gives you a better appreciation of the approach and position that the Ukrainian Canadian Congress is taking in working with Canada's government to widen and deepen its ties to Ukraine. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress has played an active role in that spirit. We intend to continue doing this work with energy and commitment.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is looking forward to reviewing the recommendations presented by your Committee and anticipates that the final policy will reflect our recommendations made today.



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