



assignments, the "Civil Society" program will assist in strengthening Ukraine's social infrastructure, thereby lessening the reliance of society on state institutions. Among the institutions which the program will focus on are the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Ukrainian Social Service organizations, government departments whose mandates are related to the needs of a civil society and emerging non-governmental organizations dealing with women's and youth issues and education.

CUPP MISSION FOCUSES ON CHALLENGES FACING UKRAINE

Successful mission provides direction for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Canadian Bureau for International Education

OTTAWA... October 1, 1994 The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), as the lead agency managing the Canada-Ukraine Partners Program, headed a successful mission to Ukraine from September 16 to September 30, 1994 focusing on the reform process in Ukraine and on identifying key Ukrainian institutions and organizations as its partners for the development of agents of civil society in Ukraine.

Oleh Romaniw, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Emil Baran, Vice-President of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Oksana Kowalchuk, Project Manager for the Partners for Civil Society (CBIE) and Walter Bernyck, Project Officer for the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, participated in the inception mission.

Lubomyr Markevych, the Canadian Director at the Canada-Ukraine Partners Office (CUPO) in Kyiv and Oksana Kuts, CUPO's Program Director facilitated the delegation in the logistical details of the mission, including assistance in conducting placement negotiations with host Ukrainian government departments and organizations. CUPO was instrumental in setting up over 25



Canada-Ukraine Partner's Office (CUPO) in Kyiv

meetings for this delegation.

Meetings were held with officials from the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv, including Ambassador François Mathys and Arthur Lebreque, Counsellor responsible for Canada's technical assistance to Ukraine. In addition, the delegation met with senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, in particular Mr. Yuriy Bohayevsky from the Ministry's Canadian desk.

As the first Western country to recognize an independent Ukraine and with a considerable Ukrainian Canadian community, Canada is considered to be in a unique position to play a pivotal role in the development of Ukraine. This was recognized and acknowledged at all levels of meetings with Ukrainian government and NGO officials.

The Civil Society component of the mission produced several positive results, as the delegation met with a wide-range of officials from a variety of Ukrainian institutions that could become partners in the Partners for Civil Society Program. Most of them were located in Kyiv, but the delegation also visited officials in the Western city of Lviv. The institutions, which were primarily educational, service-oriented or non-governmental in nature, all were in agreement on the benefits of the Canada-Ukraine Partners Program and its importance to Ukraine and expressed interest for future collaboration.

The Canadian mission came away

from the meetings very encouraged by the quality of the Ukrainian non-governmental organizations and institutions. In many important respects the past seventy years of communism have destroyed the attitudes and institutions which are required for the existence of a civil society. These will now need to be rebuilt. The eventual success of the transformation process in Ukraine will depend on a fundamental change in attitudes of the population to such things as responsibility, initiative, the sharing of information and contribution to the common good. As well, the building of a civil society, where the community at its various levels accepts responsibility for the well-being of all its members represents a very important long-term challenge. It is the building of attitudes, of local organizations and local institutions which would be one of the primary objectives of CUPP's Partners for Civil Society Program.

CANADA-UKRAINE PARTNERS OFFICE

The Canada-Ukraine Partners Office (CUPO), managed by the Canadian Bureau for International Education, will support the volunteer-sending and exchange program known as the Canada-Ukraine Partners Program (CUPP).