



GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS: CANADIAN TRADE MISSION TO UKRAINE



PHOTOS: YURY KOZAKOV

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko (l) meets Canada's Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy at Kyiv's Boryspil airport amidst a throng of reporters.

After years of heralding a special relationship, the governments of Canada and Ukraine got down to business during a high-level, official visit to Ukraine by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy on October 23-24, 1996. The Minister's visit to Kyiv included meetings with senior Ukrainian government officials to discuss issues ranging from Ukraine's security and NATO to bilateral cooperation

and aid. He also led a trade mission which launched into action the Canada-Ukraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC). Seventy-eight senior business participants from Canada were brought together with their Ukrainian counterparts to resolve issues and expand opportunities for improving trade.

"We are in favour of the creation of a new and special relationship for Ukraine with NATO," Axworthy told a news conference with Udovenko, responding to Ukraine's request to support such a special partnership at next year's NATO meetings.

A major part of the official talks also centred on trade and the role of the IEC in promoting Canada-Ukraine economic cooperation.

ANNOUNCING \$600 MILLION IN BUSINESS DEALS

The trade mission, the largest foreign delegation ever to visit Ukraine, was organized by the Canadian government in cooperation with the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce. Twelve participating companies completed contracts during the visit. The Canadian Embassy in Kyiv played a key role in making the participants feel at home and assisting them with contacts, communications and official signing ceremonies.

Highlights of Trade Mission:

- ◆ Minister Axworthy leads 78-member business delegation to Ukraine
- ◆ Meets with President, PM and senior government officials on expanding trade and reiterating Canada's commitment to Ukraine's security in light of NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe
- ◆ Addresses inaugural meeting of the Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC)
- ◆ Announces \$600 million in agreements between Canada and Ukraine, both in aid and investments
- ◆ Invites Ukraine's PM to the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative in Western Canada in June 1997 (CUBI '97)

MEETING PRESIDENT KUCHMA AND OTHER OFFICIALS: SECURITY, NATO DISCUSSIONS

While in Kyiv, Minister Axworthy met with President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and the Speaker of Ukraine's Parliament, Oleksandr Moroz. High on the agenda were discussions on Ukraine's security and the planned eastward expansion of NATO into the former Soviet block. As NATO's Contact Mission point in Ukraine, Canada plays a strategic role in mediating issues between the West and countries of Eastern Europe.



All smiles at a hearty reunion with President Kuchma.