

cerning European security in the morning and Ukraine's relations with NATO in the afternoon. Professor David Haglund of Queen's University in Kingston set the tone for the day's talks when he noted that he had more questions than could possibly be answered and proceeded to challenge many of the delegates' views with his broad-ranging opening remarks. In the afternoon session, Dr. Roman Jakobow of DND posed the central question -- What does Ukraine expect from its relationship with NATO? Given the content of the two sessions, there was considerable overlap, and issues that arose in the morning were often still being discussed in the late afternoon. (Indeed, some of the issues were the topic of animated conversations at dinner and long into the evening!) By and large, however, there was general agreement on a variety of concerns.

First, all the seminar participants echoed the widely held view that the future European security system must be inclusive. In other words, no new dividing line in Europe should be permitted to emerge. While the precise means of achieving such a goal were the subject of considerable debate, everyone recognised that the failure to do so would impact negatively on both Canadian and Ukrainian security.

Second, there was a recognition that the relationship between NATO and Ukraine will continue to evolve. The signing of the "NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership" in July 1997 must be seen as only the first step. Aware of regional concerns, including Russian opposition to enlargement of NATO into the lands of the former Soviet Union, the seminar could not come to any conclusion as to what the future holds for NATO-Ukraine relations. Nevertheless, the discussion made the seminar participants more sensitive to the complexities of this issue.

The second day of the seminar focussed on issues less related to defence than those of the first day, but equally important for bilateral Ukrainian-Canadian relations. The morning session on Ukrainian political and economic reform was chaired by Viktor Pergat of Northland Power. As the General Manager of Operations in Ukraine, Pergat brought a wealth of personal experience to the seminar. Discussion centred on the scope and pace of the Kuchma Government's current reform efforts, a subject of great interest to all. Some time was also spent on Ukraine's accomplishments in building a democratic political system, as well as in dealing with the more controversial issue of corruption.

The last session focussed on Ukrainian and Canadian perceptions of each other. Chaired by Professor Stella Hryniuk of the University of Manitoba, the discussion ex-

York University Symposium on Ukraine

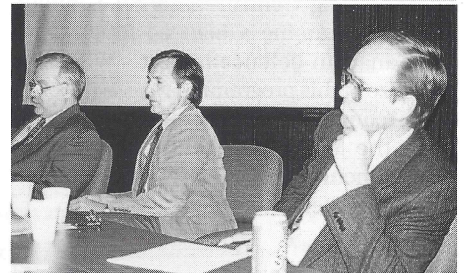
On Friday October 10, 1997 York University hosted a one day symposium entitled "Ukraine: Between Russia and NATO". Among the distinguished speakers at the symposium were two visitors from Ukraine, Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovainy, the former commander of the Ukrainian Navy and present adviser on military affairs at the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and Dr. Hryhoriy Perepelytsia, Head of the Military Political Department at the National Institute of Strategic Studies in Kyiv.

The speakers addressed at length the military-political situation in Ukraine and the country's relations with both NATO and Russia. Topics also included the geopolitical dimension and security issues in the Black Sea region.

Other participants at the symposium included Dr. Sherman Garnett, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Prof. Aurel Braun, Political Science, University of Toronto, Prof. John Jaworsky, Political Science, University of Waterloo and Dr. Roman Solchanyk, Senior Analyst at the RAND Corporation.

amined the role of long-held stereotypes and personal experiences. Using both anecdotal evidence and her own research, she noted that Ukrainians often seem to regard Canada as a country of almost limitless wealth and prosperity, and cannot therefore understand why additional aid is not forthcoming.

While Canada's economic situation is unquestionably far better than that of Ukraine, Ukrainians appear unable to recognise the serious financial constraints the Canadian government and people must confront, as well as the lack of general knowledge in Canada about the countries that were behind the Iron Curtain. Within Canada, opinion on Ukraine is divided. On one hand are members of the diaspora community who have strong emotional ties to the land from which their ancestors came. Often, they have expectations about Ukraine, its culture and people, that are unrealistic. Strongly nationalist, many Ukrainian-Canadians fail to appreciate the economic despair that has gripped Ukraine since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Other Canadians are only now coming to grips with the existence of an independent Ukrainian state.



ANDRIY FESIAK

Top (l-r) - Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovainy and Prof. Orest Subtelny; middle (l-r) - Dr. H. Perepelytsia and Dr. Aurel Braun; bottom (l-r) - Adm. Bezkorovainy, Prof. Subtelny and Prof. John Jaworsky.

For them, Ukraine is but one of many states in the territory of the former Third Annual Canada-Ukraine Strategic Seminar Soviet Union. Hryniuk ended the session by calling for an end to any illusions that might bedevil future bilateral relations.

Cultural and Community Visits

In addition to the excellent facilities offered by Fort Frontenac, Kingston offers a wide variety of sites of interest. As hosts for the this year's seminar, the Canadian organisers sought to ensure that the Ukrainian delegation left with some sense of the history of the region. While still permitting time to shop and relax, a cultural schedule was drawn up, including a visit to Old Fort Henry and a tour of the Royal Military College of Canada. The delegation also participated in a two-hour long discussion of Ukrainian politics with undergraduates at Queen's University. And, on the last evening before their departure, a buffet dinner with Ukrainian-Canadians permitted members of the delegation to meet with representatives of the diaspora community.