



INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION ACTIVE IN UKRAINE

The International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) was established in Ukraine by Hungarian-American financier George Soros, as one of a series of foundations dispensing hundreds of millions of dollars to promote open societies in 21 ex-communist states. Head of the IRF Supervising Council is Bohdan Havrylyshyn, Head of the Executive Committee - Bohdan Kravchenko, and Executive Director - Bohdan Budzan.

Over the past several years, IRF has provided funds in excess of \$3 million (US) to assist in the realization of projects and programs in the fields of education, science and culture. These aided in the development of independent mass media and supported economic, juridical and political reforms. They supported existing institutions, as well as participating in the creation of new organizations, unions, foundations, societies and associations, mostly non-governmental bodies. IRF created the Soros Centre of Contemporary Arts, the International Privatization, Investment and Management Centre, and the Centre for Perspective Research in Ukraine. A number of key programs were launched in 1993: the Culture of Health Program and the Youth Program. The first major program, Transformation of Humanitarian Education, with a \$2.5 million (US) budget, has recently been implemented. Another new program is the Military Retraining program, intended to help social adaptation of professional military retired and laid-off from the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

A Ukrainian Branch of the International Soros Science Fund has

allocated \$1.5 million (US) in grants for Ukrainian scientists to stimulate development of basic research and preservation of Ukraine's scientific potential.

IRF established three regional branches, Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa and the Crimea, and a regional network which is now active throughout Ukraine.

Executive Director Bohdan Budzan recently completed an exchange program in Canada. He noted that the IRF is currently involved in a number of program in Canada in the area of management and technical training. A number of Ukrainian farmers and doctors are being trained in the use of new technologies, and scientists - know-how in the transfer of new technologies into business opportunities. In conjunction with Canadian government-sponsored and privately funded programs, groups of official from the Ukrainian government and state enterprises have come to Canada to receive management training.

The key, says Mr. Budzan, is that often, there are many Canadians who want to participate in projects with Ukraine, but don't know where to begin and what's important for Ukraine. The IRF is establishing an organization in Ukraine that will provide quality liaison and facilitate, speed up this process.

Three functions are a priority for the IRF: (1) Organization - to provide an organization in Ukraine, which can offer assistance and promote contacts for new businesses, so that they can get on to implement their projects; (2) Partnerships

- The IRF would like to have other organizations join Foundation finances in joint projects in Ukraine -- to provide matching funding for projects already being sponsored by other sources, such as government funds, so that partnerships with Ukraine can be enlarged to meet broader objectives. For instance, IRF in Ukraine has a broad publishing program that enables Ukrainian partners to benefit beyond the scope of individual project submissions. IRF objectives go beyond the simple business requirements and into the social goals for Ukraine; and (3) Work with Western Supporters of Ukraine -- ongoing liaison with individuals and groups that have provided funds for Ukraine and that continue to be willing to donate their time and efforts on projects with Ukraine.

As Dr. Bohdan Havrylyshyn, Head of the Supervising Council, stated recently, the economic crisis should not make us lose faith in a possibility to build a prosperous democratic society on Ukrainian land. "The world is not without good people." And activities of the IRF and similar organizations, funded by Mr. George Soros in Ukraine, are a proof of this proverb.

*For further information, contact:
International Renaissance Foundation
46, Artema Str., Kyiv, Ukraine
tel: (044) 216 12 53
FAX: (044) 216 76 29.*

would surely resist being torn away from their mother state. So would the Tatars. This group, descendants of the Mongol warriors who swept through Russia in the 13th and 14th centuries, was deported *en masse* during the Second World War because Stalin suspected them of collaborating with Germans. Resettled in Central Asia, they have now begun to return. The separation of Crimea from

Ukraine would probably spark the separation of the Tatars from Crimea, just as the separation of Quebec from Canada might lead some natives to separate from Quebec.

Outside Crimea, the consequences of separation would be even more serious. Other Russian areas of Ukraine might try

to secede as well, despite their very different circumstances. If the fight turned bloody, Russia would feel obliged to intervene on the side of the Russians. The result would be war between two states that both happen to possess nuclear weapons.

Mr. Krushchev's gift was a ticking time bomb, waiting for democracy to set it off.