



news release

Date **March 21, 1994**
For release

No. 52

CANADIANS TO SERVE AS ELECTORAL OBSERVERS IN UKRAINE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced today that a team of 13 Canadians will serve as observers of the first round of Ukraine's legislative elections on March 27.

"We have been strong supporters of Ukraine since their independence in 1991, and are pleased to assist in these elections. They will be the first multiparty elections in Ukraine since independence, and they mark an important development in Ukraine's transition to a democratic society," said Mr. Ouellet.

The team of Canadian observers will be led by Parliamentary Secretary Jesse Flis, and will consist of Senator Marcel Prud'homme, Carolyn Parrish, André Caron, John Loney, Walter Lastewka, Oleh Romaniw, Alexandra Chyczij, Myroslav Tracz, Victor Nakoneshny, Patricia Sembaliuk, Orest Dubas, and Andrij Hluchowecy. Two Canadian elections monitors, William Mukanik and Donald Slobodzian, are already in Ukraine.

Given the importance of the elections to the democratic process in Ukraine, and the priority we place on our relations with this country, the Canadian government has provided a \$2.5-million electoral assistance package to help ensure the integrity of the elections. In addition to sending observers, Canada has supplied 445 tonnes of specialized ballot paper, placed an Elections Canada elections advisor, André Bouchard, with the Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission, and assisted with voter education and media training.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874