

This was followed up by Canadian representation at the EBRD board of governors meeting two weeks ago in Budapest. My colleague John McDermid, Minister of State for Finance and Privatization, represented Canada. There is EBRD support for bankable projects in the privatization of industrial enterprises.

A third noteworthy item is our decision to add a trade commissioner to the new Canadian embassy in Kiev later this summer. This should help us better serve the business community as more Ukrainian contacts and contracts develop. To get a better reading on economic developments in Kazakhstan, my department now has an official on temporary duty in the capital, Alma Ata.

Further, we have re-funded the Program for Export Market Development (PEMD) in this new fiscal year, and my departments will be carefully examining applications for eligible companies wishing to investigate realistic opportunities in these markets.

For assistance to Russia and Ukraine to be effective, it must be combined with an opening up of markets. We believe that impediments to exports from these countries should be minimized to permit emerging enterprises to earn foreign exchange and become instruments of economic growth and democratic stability.

Two weeks ago, Canada unilaterally granted General Preferential Tariff Treatment (GPT) to Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Armenia. We intend to grant the GPT to all the former republics of the U.S.S.R. in due course. The GPT provides tariff rates on average 30 per cent below the most favoured nation duties on a variety of manufactured and semi-manufactured products coming into Canada from these countries.

Another initiative to assist potential exporters in the region is being implemented by my colleague, the Honourable Charles Mayer, and Agriculture Canada. The Canada-Russia Trade Task Force, working with the CUBC, will hold seminars on how to export to Canada next month in five cities -- St. Petersburg, Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Kiev and Minsk. The Trade Task Force has produced a Russian language handbook on how to sell products in Canadian and other Western markets.

Quite apart from large quantities of wheat, barley, corn and soybeans delivered to Russia on credit terms -- almost \$1.5 billion in 1991 -- we have launched an economic assistance program under the Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe.

A portion of this budget is allocated to the Canadian private sector under the Renaissance Eastern Europe Program. Over the past 16 months, we have supported 16 Canadian firms in Russia and 13 in Ukraine with cost-shared support exceeding \$2.7 million under Renaissance. This seed money toward the cost of joint