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CANADA CONGRATULATES NEW UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today congratulated Leonid Kuchma on his success in Sunday's Ukrainian presidential elections.

"I would like to commend Mr. Kuchma on his election victory. Canada has been a strong supporter of Ukraine in meeting the challenges of independence and I want to assure him that we will continue that support," said Mr. Ouellet.

At the recently concluded Naples Summit, the leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries (G-7) discussed Ukraine's urgent need for economic reform. The G-7 leaders accepted Canada's proposal to host a conference on Partnership for Economic Transformation in Ukraine before the next G-7 summit.

- 30 -

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