

quite expensive to arrange for the productive interaction of specialists in this field from Canada and Crimea. However, a low-cost alternative is to provide funding which would allow specialists in countries like Poland to assist and train personnel from Crimea.

6. Given the difficult economic situation and high levels of unemployment in Crimea, it is inevitable that the return of the Tatars to Crimea will continue to generate resentment and some degree of hostility among the majority population, which is itself living in difficult circumstances. In the long run, only economic reforms and new employment opportunities will help eliminate the socio-economic grounds for resentment of the Crimean Tatars. However, "Tatarophobia" in Crimea is not simply the result of socio-economic problems, for inter-ethnic tensions in Crimea pre-date the recent economic downturn. For example, after World War II there was a consistent effort to propagate a very negative stereotype of the Crimean Tatars, and this was accompanied by efforts to destroy most reminders of their presence in Crimea. In addition to destroying numerous Tatar mosques and libraries, thousands of traditional geographical place names were changed in an arbitrary and artificial fashion. Efforts to overturn the legacy of these attempts to destroy all traces of the Tatar presence in Crimea have met with great resistance and many local politicians and bureaucrats have continued to encourage distrust and resentment of the Crimean Tatars.

Here the experience of Canada and other states which have been active in combatting manifestations of intolerance and racism could prove useful to NGOs in Crimea which are active in this field. Thus it is recommended that certain multicultural teaching materials used in Canadian schools be adapted to Crimean needs, and that several short-term Canadian internships be organized for community activists involved in promoting improved inter-group relations in Crimea.

7. This report has repeatedly stressed that although Crimea has received a great deal of attention as a regional "hot spot" of potential conflict, to date this attention has not been translated into meaningful, long-term projects which would help end Crimea's isolation from the outside world. Thus the members of the Canadian team strongly recommend that Canadian governmental and non-governmental organizations support projects which would help end this isolation.

This goal could be achieved by: supporting study-abroad opportunities and internships for Crimeans of all ethnic backgrounds; supporting internships in Crimea for Canadian students and professionals with the appropriate skills; improving the quality of the local Crimean media (e.g., by encouraging journalistic exchanges within Ukraine, and within the region); and supporting projects which would link Crimea more effectively to the internet.

In the case of many of the recommendations noted above, a great deal can be achieved by encouraging contacts between Ukraine and East European countries such as