

societies. Thus in many circles in Ukraine (and especially among senior government officials) one frequently finds the view that, if the right key is found, the "problems" which emerge as a result of diversity can somehow be "resolved". Alternatively, politicians or officials eager to gain or maintain power sometimes attempt to exploit ethnic tensions for political gain.

The members of the Canadian team consistently spoke out against simplistic views that the challenges resulting from ethnic diversity can be managed easily, or manipulated safely for short-term political gain. They argued that the "problems" of diversity are almost never "resolved" (unless unacceptably brutal means are used), and ethnic "passions" can rarely be easily controlled once they have been provoked.

The Canadian (and comparative) experience points to the importance of utilizing a wide array of non-violent institutional and non-institutional means of accommodating diversity, and this accommodation usually involves a difficult, drawn-out (in fact, never-ending) series of torturous and time-consuming negotiations. This process leads to partial solutions and unhappy compromises which rarely fully satisfy any of the parties involved in such negotiations; however, the alternatives are even less desirable. By stressing the importance of various non-conflictual means of ethnic conflict management, and providing concrete examples of the effective handling of potential conflict situations, the seminar made a significant contribution to the ongoing debate on this issue in Ukraine.

Thus the seminar was successful in achieving its major goals: to provide the Ukrainian audience with insights into the policies and practices which have helped to ensure inter-ethnic "peace" in Canada and other liberal-democratic states; and to promote a productive dialogue among the representatives of groups and institutions which rarely have an opportunity to meet and interact in a non-conflictual setting.

At the same time, the Kyiv seminar provided the members of the Canadian "team" with an excellent briefing on the situation in Ukraine which prepared us well for our program in Crimea. To supplement the discussions during the seminar, a bound collection of original articles, prepared by FEE, on ethnopolitics in East/Central Europe was distributed among the seminar participants. In addition, several members of the Canadian team discussed various forms of further cooperation with seminar participants from Ukraine.

It should also be noted that the Embassy of Canada in Ukraine supported the seminar by allowing its participants to interact in an informal setting at a reception hosted by His Excellency Mr. Christopher Westdal who also, together with Mr. Ivan Kuras, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, officially opened the Kyiv seminar.