

CANADIANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- The Montreal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development is in the process of expanding its operations to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. A contribution from External Affairs and International Trade Canada will allow the Centre to assess opportunities for Canadian support to organizations promoting human rights, and those working to foster democratic development. A consultant's report on projects identified primarily in Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic will aid the Task Force in finding partners and making its funding decisions.
- Prospectus Trade Partners International is planning a Spring release for its latest publication on doing business in Hungary. Developed with the help of the Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe, the book outlines business opportunities, explains how the complex process of privatization works, and provides strategic information about various sectors of the Hungarian economy. The first in the Prospectus series, "How To Do Business in Poland", was so well-received that the Polish government has requested the printing of a "global" edition. The new, completely revised version, which will be available at Polish consulates around the world, will also have a Spring release.
- The Blue Ribbon Commission, a panel of economic experts advising the Hungarian government, has entered Phase Two of its deliberations. The international group, co-chaired by Canada's Sylvia Ostry and Márton Tardos of Hungary, submitted its first report in April 1990. It is now addressing policy issues confronting the office of the Hungarian Prime Minister, and devising a program of work to be undertaken in support of its Phase One recommendations and other matters connected with Hungary's transition to a market economy.

LENDING EXPERTISE

Retired Canadian professionals are pitching in to help Hungarians make the adjustment to a market economy. Through the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO), retired and semi-retired managers, technical experts and professionals are volunteering to share their time and expertise with Hungarian businesses and organizations which cannot afford international consulting fees.

Through CESO, the Hungarian Institute for Building has benefitted from a six-week program of seminars on contracting and construction techniques by Canadian expert, William Kandrats. Red Elliott, a farmer and veterinarian from Alberta, volunteered to spend two months advising the state-owned Mezosalva Farm on ways to combat cattle diseases, and on the organization of operations. CESO arranged for Andrew Nemeth, a robotics expert from Toronto, to spend three weeks assisting Mikromatika Robotics Ltd on the development, upgrading and manufacturing of their products. Steve Serenyi is helping Hungarotours, a hospitality industry organization, to increase efficiency and become more market-oriented.

CESO, which receives funding from the Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe for its projects in the region, is currently working on plans for up to 10 other projects in Hungary involving—among other things—environmental management, textile and chemical industries, co-operatives and universities. In partnership with External Affairs and International Trade Canada, CESO is also involved in an extensive program in Poland, and is launching a program in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. ■