

The Ukrainian-Canadian Professional and Business Federation, which boasts 25 000 members nationwide, is sending six senior advisers to the Ukrainian government to assist in creating an infrastructure for governmental operations. The Federation's Jaroslav Kinach explains that this group of Canadians will offer their expertise in macroeconomics, defence industry conversion, agriculture, health, legal reform and financial institutions. The Canadian Co-operative Association is also working with Ukrainians to assist in the formation of their own credit union.

Over the Airwaves

Many Canadians involved in Canada's technical assistance program speak Ukrainian, but there's one project that hopes to increase English language conversation and comprehension skills for Ukrainians. Its aim is to upgrade the language skills of Ukrainians who are now dealing with the international political and economic community.

Terry Hargreaves, Executive Director of Radio Canada International in Montreal, says that the series of 40 half-hour lessons will teach English

The first Western nation to recognize Ukrainian independence, Canada has taken the lead in assisting Ukraine in its transition to a market economy and democratic society.

through a "Canadian experience." Listeners of Ukraine's Radio Prominy Network will not only learn a language, but also be exposed to information on Canada's political, economic and social systems.

The Victims of Chernobyl

The Task Force has combined technical assistance initiatives in health care with a special Canadian \$1.5-million humanitarian assistance package to Ukraine. The results have brought new hope to some of the youngest victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

At a paediatric hospital in Kiev, the University of Alberta, in co-operation with Washington's Georgetown University, is heading up an international medical project known as Chernobyl's Children. Canadian physicians and laboratory technicians are providing on-site medical services as well as educational training programs for Ukrainian doctors both in Kiev and Canada. Their efforts in Kiev have been reinforced with a one-year supply of basic medicines and medical supplies airlifted to Ukraine by Canada's Department of National Defence and distributed by the Canadian Red Cross. ■

initiative in developing the current project. He now volunteers his time to manage Chernobyl's Children.

With support from the Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe, Canadian paediatricians and laboratory technicians are providing a combination of on-site treatment for Chernobyl victims and specialized training programs for their Ukrainian colleagues at Children's Hospital No. 1 in Kiev, a 600-bed facility that treats 50 000 children annually.

Both McCoy and the project's senior resident paediatrician, Dr. Clare Moisey of Smithers, British Columbia, agree that education is the key. Moisey explains, "The provision of short-term treatment services is not enough. The standard of medical care in Ukraine lags decades behind that in Canada. We need to train the best Ukrainian paediatricians we can in order to create a nucleus of highly qualified physicians. They in turn will lead the charge to upgrade medical education across Ukraine. That is the only means of bringing about long-term change."

As part of this philosophy, eight to ten of the top paediatricians in the project's Kiev-based education programs will be selected for advanced training at various Canadian medical centres.

Supporting the work of Chernobyl's Children at Hospital No. 1 is a one-year supply of critically needed medicines and medical supplies from Canada's \$1.5-million humanitarian assistance package to Ukraine. The shipments were airlifted to Kiev in early 1992.

Moisey is both excited and realistic about the challenges he faces in Kiev. He points to a year of experience working on the Greenpeace project and his fluency in Ukrainian as valuable assets, and he notes with pride that both sides of his family, descended from the earliest wave of Ukrainian immigrants, are celebrating 100 years in Canada in 1992. "As a Canadian of Ukrainian origin," Moisey concludes, "I have a rare opportunity and duty to contribute to a project that will make a difference for many years to come." ■