

Helping transform Eastern European economies is not only good for peace and stability, it is also good business. Commercial credits are a key element in our assistance because they induce and reward economic change, foster private sector relationships and have a number of multiplier effects -- including the stimulation of direct trade with Canada, something that is of considerable importance to Canadian industry and Canadian workers. For example:

- o in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic alone, there are more than \$350 million worth of projects in the pipeline;
- o in Romania, a new \$300-million Export Development Corporation (EDC) line of credit will allow completion of a Canadian Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) nuclear power plant, helping to ensure energy self-sufficiency and an environmentally safer nuclear choice; and
- o EDC lines of credit worth \$30 million will soon be in place with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

We are also helping Russia and the other former Soviet republics. The Canadian Wheat Board's \$1.8 billion line of credit is allowing Canadian farmers to continue supplying our largest grain export market.

The bulk of the \$150-million EDC line of credit for food has already been delivered to Russia.

These sales mean profits and jobs for Canadian producers and food processors, but as important as this trade is for Canada economically, it is even more critical for Russia. Canadian credits were key to getting much needed food supplies to the Russian people this winter. While others talked, we delivered -- and on commercial terms.

During President Yeltsin's recent visit to Ottawa, the Prime Minister announced a new \$100-million EDC line of credit for the purchase of Canadian goods and services. The Russians intend to use this primarily for oil and gas equipment.

Negotiations have been concluded between the EDC and the Ukrainian National Bank on the \$50-million EDC line of credit I announced in Kiev last September.

Canada has not shied away from direct financial assistance either, where the pace of reform may be hostage to harsh economic conditions. As one of Poland's largest creditors, we led the way by reducing Poland's outstanding debt by 50 per cent, at a cost of \$1.6 billion.