

Without political and economic change, Ukraine's rich, natural and human resources risk being wasted in a futile effort to preserve outdated enterprises and institutions that no longer respond to the needs of a changing society.

Serious economic reform is needed before international financial institutions can disburse the money that they have set aside for Ukraine, thereby encouraging foreign investors to take an interest in the resources and highly qualified workers of the Ukraine.

I know that the participants in this course and many other reform-minded Ukrainians are doing all that they can to move their country toward democracy and a market economy. We want to support those efforts.

We are anxious to have Ukraine become a faithful trading partner. Thus, we are offering General Preferential Tariff treatment and providing advice and hands-on development assistance through the Trade Facilitation Office.

Total trade stands at over \$40 million dollars so far this year. We want to see that grow. The first-ever Canada-Ukraine Trade Agreement is almost complete, and we will be following that up with an economic co-operation agreement.

My Department's Renaissance Eastern Europe program has financed 25 feasibility studies for Canadian-Ukrainian joint ventures. We need to get these private-sector ventures off the ground. I am interested in the idea of a government-industry partnership to invest in jobs and growth in both countries, and I welcome your input.

We want to expand Canada's \$30 million technical-assistance program, which has already generated more than 50 projects. Our support for the Institute for Public Administration and Local Government is helping Ukraine to build the institutions that modern independent states need.

Other Canadian projects include: improving health care, providing the tools for agricultural reform, planning the clean-up of a major river in your country and encouraging private-sector development.

There are many ways that Canadians, and particularly those of you here today, can work with government to help Ukraine. I encourage you to explore initiatives, like our Partners in Progress program or Canadian Executive Services Organization.

The first half of 1994 will decide Ukraine's future. We are ready to send observers for next spring's elections and are preparing to do much more for democratic development.