



No. 192

September 9, 1991

## McDOUGALL ANNOUNCES \$5 MILLION IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced a \$5-million technical assistance package to assist Ukraine in developing its infrastructure and to meet urgent needs.

Mrs. McDougall made the announcement in Kiev, where she opened Canada's new diplomatic mission and met with Chairman Leonid Kravchuk and other Ukrainian leaders.

"Drawing upon the strengths of the nearly one million Canadians of Ukrainian descent, we are expanding our links with the people of Ukraine through technical assistance, trade credits and by encouraging private investment," Mrs. McDougall said.

The Minister announced two immediate projects which will be funded out of the \$5-million assistance package:

- \$1 million will help victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Funds will be sent to the Special Clinic for the Protection of Children Against Radiation in Kiev, and three community-based psychological rehabilitation centres for Chernobyl victims in Ukraine, Byelorussia and Russia.
- \$700,000 will help in the transition to a competitive agricultural system. The funds will allow a consortium of Canadian agricultural colleges and universities to train faculty at two post-secondary educational institutions in Ukraine in the development of new curricula.

Further projects will be developed in the months ahead as Canadians and Ukrainians identify areas for co-operation, especially through the use of Canadian experts and training programs to assist Ukraine's move towards a market-based economy. Some projects that are under consideration include those to assist the reform of Ukraine's economic regulations and financial institutions.

In addition, Mrs. McDougall also announced four other initiatives being undertaken by the Canadian private sector:

- Landford International of Toronto has announced a multimillion dollar commercial-hotel-office complex in downtown Kiev to be known as Canada Place to commemorate the twinning of Toronto and Kiev on July 29, 1991.
- A Canadian company, DWT International, has made a private corporate donation of \$500,000 in disposable syringes to a Kiev hospital.
- The Alberta Wheat Pool has joined an international consortium of companies proposing a package of technology to aid in the rehabilitation of agricultural lands damaged by the Chernobyl disaster.
- In order to help upgrade the native cattle population in Ukraine, a Ukrainian-Canadian joint venture, called Semex Ukraine, has been established and six Holstein bulls have been sent to Ukraine by the Canadian company, Semex Canada.
- The Canadian Bar Association is opening its 1992 Legal Internship Program to Ukrainian lawyers.

The technical assistance projects will be administered by the Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe of External Affairs and International Trade Canada. The Task Force was established in July 1990 to manage Canada's technical assistance to countries in economic and political transition in the region.

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