

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE UKRAINIAN DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION
FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE,
H.E. MR. VOLODYMYR KHOLOSHA
607TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
04 MAY 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

Canada joins others in welcoming Deputy Minister Kholosha to the Permanent Council.

Speaking on the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, the Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper, spoke on behalf of all Canadians in expressing Canada's support and friendship for the people of Ukraine and of its neighbouring countries, who continue to suffer the tragic consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear station.

Prime Minister Harper stated that the international community must continue to work together to ensure that a tragedy such as what occurred at Chernobyl never happens again.

He noted that Canadians will not forget what happened 20 years ago, nor will we forget those whose health and livelihoods were so dramatically altered by the disaster. Canada will continue to support efforts in the affected region to mitigate the consequences resulting from the damaged reactor, and to help the individual victims of this tragedy and their families.

Mr. Chairman, to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, Foreign Affairs Minister, Peter MacKay, recently announced an \$8 million contribution by Canada toward the shelter at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine. This contribution is part of Canada's commitment to the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, launched by the G8 in 2002 under Canada's leadership. This brings Canada's total commitment for Chernobyl-related projects to \$66.2 million.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.