



Ukrainian Youth Association of Australia
Спілка Української Молоді в Австралії



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E-mail: ky-australia@cym.org

1 November 2007

The Hon Alexander Downer MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I write to you on behalf of the National Executive of the Ukrainian Youth Association (UYA) of Australia, the representative body of 8 member branches around Australia representing some 1000 young Australians of Ukrainian heritage. We are also a member of the peak body of Ukrainians in Australia, the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO).

We pledge full support for the recent call by the AFUO in seeking support from the Coalition that, if re-elected to Government, it will consider as a matter of priority establishing an official Australian diplomatic post in Kyiv, Ukraine in the near future.

The UYA of Australia refers you to the attached letter written by the AFUO giving overwhelming evidence that trade, both import and export, has significantly increased (over 40%) between Ukraine and Australia since Ukraine's independence in 1991, and that there has been an overwhelming number of business and skilled migrants to Australia that have integrated in, and become hardworking members of, the greater Australian community. However, despite this strong evidence in support of Australian diplomatic representation in Ukraine, which would ensure closer and stronger ties with Ukraine and enable even greater social, economic and migration opportunities, and despite Ukraine's initiative in establishing diplomatic representation in Australia over 10 years ago, Australia has yet to reciprocate.

We therefore urge you to formally announce your plans in opening Australia's first Embassy in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Duma,

On behalf of the National Executive of the UYA of Australia.

Attachment: AFUO Letter to The Hon Alexander Downer MP, dated 29 October 2007

Cc: Electoral Office Contact: The Hon Alexander Downer MP, PO Box 1601, Mt Barker SA 5251

Representing 8 branches of the Ukrainian Youth Association in Australia

Adelaide – Brisbane – Canberra-Queanbeyan – Geelong – Melbourne – Newcastle – Perth – Sydney