



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine



Exterior of Embassy Kyiv

A newly arrived Ambassador and the deputy chief of mission make a formidable team at a mission that has a complex set of goals and representation by nine U.S. government agencies. Embassy Kyiv has a keen understanding of the complicated and rapidly evolving political and economic situation in the Ukraine and has good working relations across the political spectrum. The embassy's commentary on such issues as the evolving state of Ukraine's relations with the European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Russia is extensive, timely, and well appreciated by Washington end-users.

The management section has met some of the daunting challenges it faces in dealing with a mission that is scattered in six locations in an environment of worsening traffic and limited availability of housing. The section is working to improve customer service satisfaction by expanding its housing stock and the hours of its motor pool.

A new embassy compound is scheduled to be constructed on land that was purchased during the inspection visit. Although the post needs a full-time fraud prevention manager to meet a rising rate of increasingly sophisticated visa fraud, it otherwise has adequate American staffing. Staffing levels should be examined, as all units plan to colocate into the new embassy compound; therefore, some staffing reductions should be feasible.

Prior to the end of the inspection, the locally employed staff had not had a salary increase for several years, despite high inflation, notably in housing and related costs. A number of qualified employees had been enticed away by higher private sector salaries, and morale was low among those who remained. The significant salary increase announced during the inspection will resolve the immediate issue, but Washington agencies need to plan for further likely wage increases in this burgeoning market.

The new consular section chief has introduced a number of efficiencies, allowing the section better to meet growing demand for all of its services and reduce dramatically the waiting period for nonimmigrant visa interviews.

OIG Report ISP-I-07-17A Inspection of Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine

The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections in Kyiv, Ukraine, between October 20 and November 14, 2006. This is an unclassified summary of a full report, which receives limited official distribution. Both the report summary and the full report reflect the conditions reviewed during the fieldwork.

Background: Ukraine



Map of Ukraine

The borders of Ukraine, the largest country wholly within Europe, were drawn only in 1954, and the country declared its independence in August 1991 following the breakup of the Soviet Union. In the 11th Century, Kievan Rus, now Ukraine, was the largest state in Europe and one of the centers of the Christian Orthodox world. Its location on major trade routes and its rich agricultural lands led Ukraine's neighbors to contest its control, and Ukrainian lands over the centuries were annexed by Poland, Lithuania, the Ottoman Empire, Russia, and finally the Soviet Union. Ukraine's population of some 47 million has been declining in recent years, due in part to low birth rates. About 78 percent of its citizens are ethnic Ukrainians; some 17 percent are ethnic Russians, and there are a significant number of Muslim Tatars, mostly in the Crimea. Ukrainian is the state language, but Russian is widely spoken, particularly in the eastern half of the country and in the national capital of Kyiv.

The United States recognized Ukraine in December 1991. Leonid Kravchuk served as Ukraine's first elected president from 1991 to 1994. Leonid Kuchma succeeded him and served two terms, until early 2005. Viktor Yushchenko succeeded him after the Ukrainian Supreme Court ordered an unprecedented third round of voting in December 2004, following a fraudulent run-off election won by his rival, Viktor Yanukovich, now Ukraine's prime minister. The re-vote was precipitated by massive public protests, part of the so-called "Orange Revolution."

Office of Inspector General

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