



PRESS RELEASE

THE ELECTIONS IN UKRAINE, 27 MARCH 1994

A delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, headed by its Treasurer, Sir Peter Emery, M.P. from the United Kingdom, visited Ukraine from March 24-28 to monitor the parliamentary elections at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine.

The Assembly's delegation consisted of 23 parliamentarians from 16 countries and four members of the International Secretariat.

During the visit to Ukraine the Delegation of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly met with representatives of all major political parties, mass media, as well as with the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, the Foreign Minister and Deputy Minister of the Interior Ministry, independent experts and observers working in Ukraine and diplomatic representatives posted in Ukraine, and other international observers.

Apart from Kiev, the members of the Delegation visited Chernigov, Zhitomir, Lvov, Odessa, Sumi and the Donetsk Region.

On Election Day the Delegation members visited over 80 polling stations in and around the cities mentioned above, including their opening and closing as well as in military barracks.

The Delegation welcomes the holding of the first multi-party elections in Ukraine and recognizes the efforts by the Ukrainian Administration to move toward a democratic system.

Based on their findings before and during the elections, the members of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly concluded:

The members of the Delegation declare that the election was carried out with great enthusiasm and a desire for accuracy and it should be considered, within the law as it allows, quite successful. But this can only be fully confirmed if there is an adequate turnout of voters at the "run off" elections in two weeks' time.

At the same time there is no doubt that in a number of polling stations there were discrepancies and errors. Also there were reported to us some instances, during the campaign, of the use of physical force and the abduction of two persons.

The large number of candidates in many districts greatly complicated the voting pattern and created much difficulty for the voters. This is shown by the large number of spoilt ballots and ballots with duplicate votes. Also this made it much more difficult for a candidate to obtain 50% of the votes cast and be elected on the first ballot.

However, from our team of members who visited more than 80 polling stations, none of the irregularities could be considered serious enough to invalidate either the individual polls or, more specifically, this first part of the election.

Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Emery M.P.
Chairman of the Delegation

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