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Хайдук Стенлі

Suggestions for Development of Geopolitical Position of Ukraine

I. Energy Independence

The Energy Independence has become the main issue of political and economical independence. This independence is the primary concern for all European countries, United States, Japan and other leading industrial nations.

Ukraine is one of very few European countries that can achieve energy independence through mining of coal and converting it into gas, gasoline and electricity. Currently, the oil is well over \$60 per barrel and will most probably remain above that level for the foreseeable future. However, at \$40 per barrel of oil, it is becoming economical to make gas, gasoline and electricity from coal, assuming that costs of coal will remain about the current levels.

In the United States there is a recent trend to convert power plants (that make electricity) from oil into coal-based power plants. Ukraine should increase its coal mining, and make it the main source energy. Power plants could convert coal into electricity and Ukraine could become the main European exporter of electricity.

Ukraine has a lot of land that could be used to grow various plants for conversion into ethylene, a form of gasoline to run cars and other vehicles. Brazil is already doing it on a large scale. However, Ukraine has even better land and general conditions for bio-energy production.

European Union is attempting to lower its energy independence on other countries. Should Ukraine, with the help of German or US companies become the main exporter of energy such as electricity, European Union (EU) will invite Ukraine to become its member state. At that point the entry into EU could be on Ukrainian terms. Development of energy sources should be a key strategic goal for Ukraine.

II. Human Power

Globalization is affecting all countries around the world. Suddenly it seems that things can be

done at any country in the world. In the past technology was spreading from highly development countries to the less developed countries. The current wave of moving plants from technologically advanced countries such as USA, European Union and Japan to China and India is in full swing. The next target is Vietnam where many Japanese companies have set up their operations.

The main reasons behind moving factories to less advanced countries were their low prevailing wages and relatively good mental development. In the long range, Ukraine should not try to compete with China or India, where engineering salaries are \$300 to \$500 per month, or Vietnam where the salaries are \$100 per month. Ukraine should not compete on the basis of lower labor prices but on the basis of excellent higher education and better engineering and scientific skills. The educational level in Ukraine is probably much better than in many technologically advanced countries of European Union or United States. There is no reason to sell yourself as low wage country, but to join the globalization trend as the leading source of human capabilities.

Building factories and training people, even for advanced technologies, can be accomplished within 3 to 4 years. However, training people for scientific developments is a very long process, sometimes involving several generations. Our company has operations in one of the EU countries and as we were successful in making some innovative products to the preproduction stage, we never could build them with proper quality till we expanded into geographical areas with strong past industrial experience. It turned out that only in areas with such traditions, we could achieve, and even exceed the product quality typical for European Union and America.

Ukraine has several renowned industrial centers that provided technology for the former Soviet Union. In these centers there are strong traditions of advanced product development. Young people in

those geographical areas have families from which they can get proper indoctrination about conduct in an industrial society. Such young boys are much more teachable than people whose parents lived in a jungle and never designed any industrial equipment.

We now have the Internet era and dynamic growth of knowledge. That growth of knowledge is unsustainable using textual means and words. Any further growth of advanced technologies will be in the future based on graphical presentations. These presentations will be language independent and spread further the process of globalization.

It is important for Ukraine to pay attention to the software skills in the area of graphic operations. Mathematics, physics, molecular physics, chemistry, etc. can be best explained by means of graphics. Lectures on these subjects could be the result of cooperation of respected scientists with young software developers who have the proper graphics skills. Ukraine could move into the new Internet era technologies with speed because it has all that is needed for success:

1. Strong scientific and engineering traditions
2. Good educational level

Highest Internet skills of young people in the world

Ukraine should start numerous, special courses in Graphics Technologies. To reinforce their impor-

tance there should be an Ukrainian National Olympiad in Graphics Technologies. Ministry of Education should give contracts to Universities to develop graphical presentations of selected scientific areas to speed students' education. Some grants could be also received from foreign companies once Ukraine is recognized as the leader in graphics development.

Note:

Europe was for over 2 thousand years a text based society. Asia, because of their language, had strong graphical inclination. The psychological tests have shown that Asian people outperform Europeans in so called graphical intelligence. In the new era, where the knowledge will be produced and distributed by the graphical means, we Europeans are standing at a great disadvantage. We must compensate for this handicap by moving fast into the area of graphical communications. Proper moves at this stage would put Ukraine in the leadership of European countries.

Some technological races have been historically won by the Germans. Others races have been won by Japan or the US. This race for graphics communications could be won by the Ukraine. So, let's get to work now. I wish you a lot of LUCK!

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