



INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL POLITICS

UKRAINE SIGNS NATO AGREEMENT

Brussels, Sept. 15, 1995... Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko signed an individual cooperation program for Ukraine with NATO within the Partnership for Peace (PFP) program. The agreement states that any expansion of NATO must be aimed at enhancing European security.

After signing the agreement with NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes in Brussels, Udovenko said Ukraine is convinced that its participation in the cooperation program will be instrumental in developing closer relations between Kyiv and NATO countries.

The program envisages that Ukraine and NATO will cooperate in 19 areas within PFP, including cooperation in preparation for civil emergency situations, joint manoeuvres, and crisis resolution actions.

As part of PFP, Gen. Hans Hansen, NATO's Central European Commander-in-Chief arrived in Ukraine on September 12 for a 2-day visit to get a first-hand view of its role in the special NATO program and to study the development of Ukraine's armed forces and defence policy.

Ukraine is the second country after Russia out of the 26 participating in the Partnership for Peace to have an individual program.

UKRAINE TO ENTER COUNCIL OF EUROPE; EUROPEAN UNION NEXT

Strasbourg, Sept. 26, 1995... After more than three years of intense lobbying for membership Ukraine's application was unanimously approved by the CE's Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg. As a result, Ukraine will officially join the Council of Europe as its 37th member as early as November 3, during the CE's next scheduled Cabinet meeting.

Reacting to the CE's earlier decision to consider Ukraine's membership

application during its parliamentary session, Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko hailed the move by stating that "membership in this organization would mean that the country is really on its way to democratic reforms which have as their goal the guarantee of basic human rights and freedoms."

In a recent effort to further develop favourable relations, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko had invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Daniel Tarschys, to visit Kyiv. On September 15, during the official inaugural opening of the Information and Documentation Center of the Council of Europe in Kyiv, Tarschys stated that, "Ukraine's entry into the Council of Europe will act as a recognition of its democratic reform achievements and the restructuring of its governmental system, which Ukraine inherited from the Soviet regime." According to Tarschys, Ukraine's primary goal at this point is to ratify its constitution, continue reforming and developing its legal base, raise its legal and judicial system to European standards, and to ratify the European Convention on Human Rights.

DELEGATION AT WORLD WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Sept. 16, 1995... Ukraine's delegation participated in the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, September 4-15. The delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Kuras, called for more international aid for countries in transition from a socialist to a market economy, to help them address women's and children's problems. Kuras said that Ukrainian government had drawn up a program to improve the status of Ukrainian women, but had difficulty putting it into effect due to lack of funds.

UKRAINE'S PM IN U.S.

Sept. 28, 1995... PM Yevhen Marchuk, during his trip to Washington met with U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Senate majority leader Bob Dole. He also addressed a government round table on US assistance for Ukrainian reforms. The US officials urged that privatization be

sped up to boost U.S. investment in Ukraine, and Gore promised the U.S. would use its influence to increase aid to Ukraine. During the visit, Ukrainian and U.S. officials signed agreements under which the United States will provide Ukraine with 150 million U.S. dollars to refurbish its hydraulic power generating facilities and to cultivate improved strains of grain. The PM said U.S. political and business leaders attached great importance to his four day working visit, during which he also met with the deputy secretary of state and secretaries of defence, commerce and treasury. The American military had earlier promised to provide Ukraine with \$10 million for its participation in the activities under the NATO Partnership for Peace program. The Prime Minister also met with leaders of the International Monetary Fund, which decided to grant the country with a third standby loan of \$350 million.

UKRAINE-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENTS COMPLETED

The Embassy of Ukraine announced August 22, 1995, the completion of three agreements facilitating bilateral commercial relations between the Ukrainian and Canadian governments completed in July and August this year. "These agreements represent a significant expansion of the trade opportunities between our two countries," said Victor Batiuk, Ukrainian ambassador to Canada. The following agreements come into effect immediately.

1) The Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments, will guarantee the repatriation of dividends and other profits to Canadian investors.

2) The Economic Cooperation Agreement, will establish a bilateral commission to identify and remove potential barriers that may further inhibit development of commercial relations between the two countries.

3) The Agreement on Trade and Commerce grants Most Favoured Nation status to exporters in both nations.

Economic reforms have created greater stability and the Ukrainian economy is now ripe for foreign investment. Ukraine is prepared to