



UKRAINE JOINS G-7 LEADERS AS WORLD REMEMBERS CHORNOBYL

The leaders of the world's seven leading industrialized countries (G-7) and their two invited guests gathered in Moscow on April 19-20, 1996, to discuss questions of nuclear safety. Presidents Jacques Chirac of France and Bill Clinton of the US, Prime Ministers John Major of the UK, Jean Chrétien of Canada, Lamberto Dini of Italy and Rotaro Hashimoto of Japan, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the President of the Commission of the European Union Jacques Santer were joined by the Russian and Ukrainian Heads of State Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma. A fundamental problem is the presence of nuclear weapons and waste in Russia and other CIS countries, a cause of considerable disquiet in the West. Within the borders of the former Soviet Union there are some 600 million cubic metres of nuclear waste and 8,500 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel. One hundred and sixty Russian submarines are to be destroyed in accordance with arms limitation treaties (120 of these subs are nuclear-powered). Another global issue is the closure of the Chornobyl atomic energy station. President Kuchma reported satisfaction with the results of his meeting with the Big Seven, since a joint declaration on Chornobyl was signed at the summit. This confirmed the G-7's support for Ukraine's plans to close Chornobyl by 2000. The session on Ukraine also provided an opportunity for Canada's Prime Minister and Ukraine's President to hold additional bilateral talks.

"Moscow Summit" Chornobyl Closure Session at Nuclear Safety Meetings

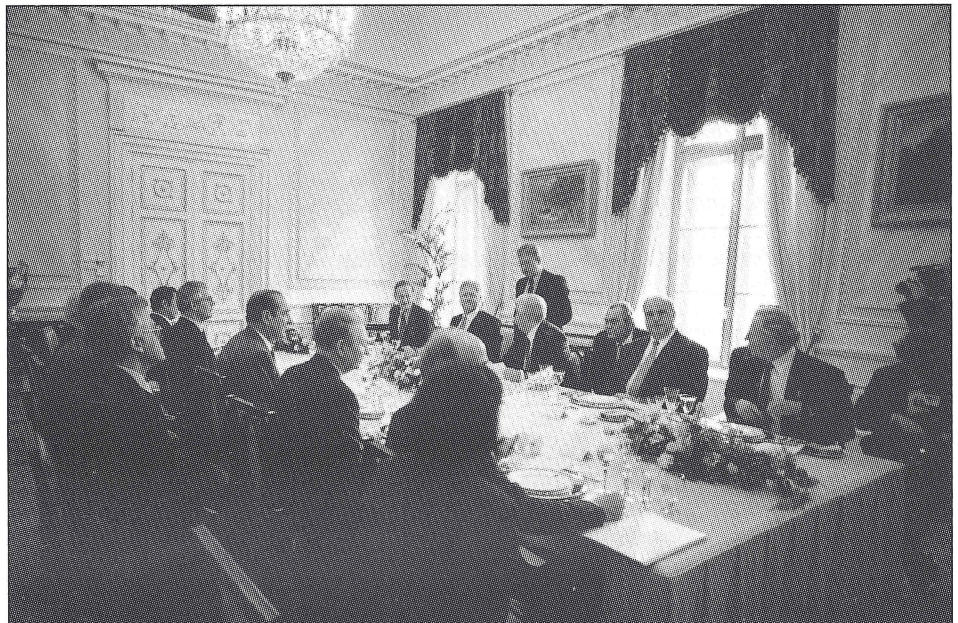
The Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security in Moscow reaffirmed internationally recognized safety principles for civilian nuclear reactors and the importance of full collaboration. Cooperation in the security of nuclear materials, the safe management of radioactive waste and the development of energy sector strategies also figured prominently on the Summit's agenda.

The G-7 countries opened the door to practical and timely measures in support of Ukraine's decision to close down the Chornobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma reaffirmed that commitment, as the state leaders confirmed pledges already made to Ukraine for a US\$3 billion assistance package, mainly in credits rather than grants. They also agreed on providing low-interest credits for the construction of nuclear and non-nuclear power generating capacities in Ukraine to compensate for the loss of Chornobyl's output.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will finance the completion of power blocks at the Rivne and Khmelnytsky nuclear plants, while the World Bank will fund the overhaul of major hydro and thermal power plants.

According to the first deputy head of Ukraine's State Committee for the Utilization of Nuclear Energy, Nur Nigmatullin, these blocks are already 85% complete. Preliminary estimates made by Ukrainian experts show that \$850 million



J. M. CARISSE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

A working lunch at the G-7 Summit served as venue for President Kuchma to detail Ukraine's concerns over the implementation plan and level of funding offered by the leading industrialized countries for the closure of Chornobyl by the year 2000.

to \$1 billion will be needed to complete construction and that the blocks could be ready to operate as early as in 30 months.

Nigmatullin said that another \$1.2-1.6 billion will be needed for Chornobyl in order to construct an ecologically safe covering over the block destroyed in the accident.

The G-7 leaders also agreed that experts from their countries would meet to map out specific measures for starting the closure process. A multilateral commission will determine measures to repair or rebuild the cracking sarcophagus over Chornobyl.

The summit improved the outlook for a more timely fulfilment of the terms of the Dec. 20, 1995 Memorandum of Under-

standing (MOU). However, it fell short of Kyiv's urgent pleas for the signing of an agreement that would define the sources and terms of the aid, as well as a schedule for a flow of aid.

During the meeting, Kuchma warned that without this Ukraine would not be able to guarantee that all safety requirements would be met while the plant was being shut down.

Ukraine and international experts have calculated the aggregate costs of closing down Chornobyl, including construction of compensatory non-nuclear power-generating capacities, at a minimum of \$4 billion. Kuchma also proposed that inter-