

In Madrid

NATO-Ukraine Sign Charter



NATO PHOTO

Signing the Charter of Distinctive Partnership, Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma (l) and NATO Secretary General Javier Solana (r).

Madrid, July 9, 1997... In a special signing ceremony, NATO moved its cooperation with Ukraine onto a more substantive level by signing a Charter of Distinctive Partnership at the Madrid Summit. The Charter, which stops just short of NATO membership, lays out a framework for consultation and cooperation with Ukraine on a range of political and security issues, including nuclear weapons, and gives Ukraine the right to demand consultations with NATO if it faces an outside threat.

"We understand the realities on the European continent, and these are the reasons for our cooperation with NATO," said President Kuchma. "Ukraine is ready to take part in providing peace and stability in Central Europe."

"The important thing for us is that both Ukraine and Russia are now cooperating with NATO," said Secretary-General Solana. (Russia signed a similar accord with NATO in May). He added that the charter marked only the beginning, "not the end," of NATO ties with Ukraine.

At the Madrid Summit, NATO also invited the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to begin talks on membership for entry by the 50th anniversary of the Washington Treaty in April 1999. It established a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) to enhance security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region. EAPC brings together 44 nations, including Ukraine as one of the

28 that have developed a security relationship with the 16-member NATO alliance.

Ukraine reaffirmed its determination to carry forward defence reforms, strengthen democratic and civilian control of the armed forces, and increase interoperability with NATO and Partner countries. NATO reaffirmed support for Ukraine's efforts.

Under the Charter, NATO and Ukraine committed themselves to develop and strengthen consultation and cooperation in the full development of the EAPC and NATO's enhanced Partnership for Peace (PfP) Program. This includes Ukrainian participation in operations, including peacekeeping operations under the authority of the UN Security Council or OSCE.

Consultations are to cover issues of common concern, such as:

- ◆ political and security related subjects, in particular the development of Euro-Atlantic security and stability, including the security of Ukraine;
- ◆ conflict prevention, crisis management, peace support, conflict resolution and humanitarian operations, taking into account the roles of the United Nations and the OSCE in this field;
- ◆ the political and defence aspects of nuclear, biological and chemical non-proliferation;

- ◆ disarmament and arms control issues, including those related to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), the Open Skies Treaty and confidence and security building measures covered in the 1994 Vienna Document;
- ◆ arms exports and related technology transfers; and
- ◆ combatting drug-trafficking and terrorism.

The Charter also stipulates consultation and cooperation through joint seminars, joint working groups, and other cooperative programs, in other areas, such as:

- ◆ civil emergency planning and disaster preparedness;
- ◆ civil-military relations, democratic control of the armed forces, and Ukrainian defence reform;
- ◆ defence planning, budgeting, policy, strategy and national security concepts;
- ◆ defence conversion;
- ◆ NATO-Ukraine military cooperation and interoperability;
- ◆ economic aspects of security;
- ◆ science and technology issues;
- ◆ environmental security issues, including nuclear safety;
- ◆ aerospace research and development; and
- ◆ civil-military coordination of air traffic management and control.

NATO and Ukraine will also be exploring to the broadest possible degree the following areas for cooperation:

- ◆ armaments cooperation;
- ◆ military training, including PfP exercises on Ukrainian territory and NATO support for Polish-Ukrainian peacekeeping; and
- ◆ promotion of defence cooperation between Ukraine and its neighbours.

"We are convinced that Ukraine's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty are a key factor for ensuring stability in Europe," states the NATO communiqué. "We continue to support the reform process in Ukraine as it develops as a democratic nation with a market economy. We want to build on steps taken to date in developing a strong and enduring relationship between NATO and Ukraine. We welcome the practical cooperation achieved with the Alliance through Ukraine's participation within IFOR and SFOR, as well as the recent opening of the NATO Information Office in Kyiv, as important contributions in this regard. We look forward to the early and active implementation of the Charter."

The Charter is the elevation of NATO's cooperation with Ukraine following