



BREAKING STORIES

● KRAVCHUK-CLINTON TO MEET MARCH 12

A high-level Ukrainian government delegation, headed by the Minister of the Economy, Roman Shpek arrived in Washington on January 23 to begin preparations for a meeting between Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk and United States President Bill Clinton that is scheduled to take place on March 12, 1994 in Washington.

● UKRAINE VOTES TO RID NUCLEAR ARMS

Ukraine's parliament agreed on February 4 to give up its nuclear arsenal in return for promises of compensation and guarantees of security from the United States and Russia. Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of Ukraine's accession to the START-1 pact. The vote was interpreted as approval of a separate deal that President Leonid Kravchuk clinched in Moscow with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

● CANADA WELCOMES UKRAINIAN RATIFICATION OF START 1

February 4, 1994... Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet on February 4, 1994 welcomed the unconditional ratification by the Ukrainian Parliament of the START 1 Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol, which commits Ukraine to acceding to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state.

"The government and parliament of Ukraine have acted courageously in the spirit of the tripartite agreement recently signed with the United States and Russia. They have recognized that denuclearization is the best way to ensure Ukraine's security and promote stability in the region. We expect that Ukraine will now move quickly to implement START 1 and accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty," said Mr. Ouellet.

Mr. Ouellet noted that he will discuss this issue and the prospects for increased Canada-Ukraine co-operation when he visits Ukraine in the near future. Canada has an extensive program of technical assistance to Ukraine and early NPT accession will open the door to full co-operation in the nuclear field, particularly in the area of safety.

- *Realistically speaking, what could Canada do as security guarantee if Ukraine were ever attacked?*

Indeed this is a delicate situation. If you ask someone to disarm, there is -- if not a legally binding obligation -- a moral obligation toward those people who are following your advice. You know that Mr. Chretien has been a strong advocate of the rapid expansion of NATO, which can give that type of guarantee to those who become members of NATO. The ultimate goal should be to have an alliance that is a real alliance of all of Europe. If we achieve security and peace in all of Europe it will be much better. It is unrealistic in the short term to think that all of these countries, including Russia, Ukraine and some other former USSR republics, can become members of NATO or members of a new alliance in Europe. But it's difficult to say. What was thought impossible a few years ago has changed so radically in Europe that nothing is impossible when good will prevails.

- *With Canada's extensive expertise in atomic energy, what initiatives are you considering for responsible agencies, such as AECL, to assist Ukraine to improve its nuclear reactors, especially in the areas of design and operational safety, in view of the tragic consequences of the Chernobyl disaster? (The French, Germans and US recently announced similar initiatives which will boost their industries.)*

Canada will be able to engage in full-scale nuclear cooperation once Ukraine accedes to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapons-state and implements IAEA full-scope safeguards. In the meantime, Canada can provide assistance on regulatory matters and waste management. The Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) is looking at working with the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety. In addition, Ukraine is eligible for the \$30 million Canadian Nuclear Safety Initiative, which targets design an operational safety, regulatory assistance and utility management in the countries with Soviet-designed reactors.

- *At the CSCE meetings in Rome, Canada offered to act as mediator*

between Ukraine and Russia. Can you please expand on this offer and address the key areas where Canada can facilitate the process?

The offer I made at the CSCE Rome meeting was to assist, along with other interested parties, in settling outstanding differences between Ukraine and Russia. The trilateral Ukraine-USA-Russia statement addresses many of those questions and we welcome it. But there are still outstanding irritants. Should both parties feel that Canada's assistance would be useful, we are more than ready to help.

- *With the launch of NATO's Partnership for Peace plan for all former Warsaw Pact countries and former Soviet Republics, including Russia and Ukraine, leaders of all these Eastern European nations have now indicated that only when full membership in NATO is attained, will their security concerns and objectives be met. When do you foresee these countries, including Ukraine, becoming members of NATO?*

As you know, Canada was in favour of a rapid expansion of NATO to include Central and East European partners. We see Partnership for Peace as an important first step. It's difficult to predict when expansion will take place, but we will be striving for that in the Alliance. At the same time, we are urging Ukraine and other Central and Eastern European countries to take full advantage of the Partnership for Peace.

- *Is a similar treaty on defence issues being contemplated and, if so, what is to be its scope? Are there plans for Canada's military to work with Ukraine's military leadership in any joint projects, technical exercises, etc.?*

National Defence is currently working on a military cooperation agreement with Ukraine, and I'm pleased to say that it is close to completion. It provides the basis for military cooperation, including courses in Canada and expert teams to Ukraine.