



Our meeting this evening begins a new era in our relations. The agreement President Kravchuk and I will sign with President Yeltsin opens the door to new forms of economic, political and security cooperation. Our meeting tonight centred on these important issues.

First we discussed the strategic importance for this region and the world of the nuclear agreement. I commended President Kravchuk for his courage and his vision in negotiating this agreement.

Second, I was able to issue a personal invitation to Ukraine to participate fully in the Partnership for Peace launched at this weekend's NATO summit.

By providing for specific and practical cooperation between NATO and Ukrainian states and their forces, this partnership can foster an integration of a border Europe and increase the security of all nations.

I'm very pleased by the expressions of interest in participating that came from President Kravchuk and his government today.

Third, President Kravchuk and I agreed today to expand and enhance the economic ties between our nations. This is a difficult time for transition for Ukraine, but Ukraine is blessed with abundant natural resources and human talent.

Because so many of its neighbours are moving toward market economy and democracy, as well, I believe Ukraine's most promising future lies with reform and with integration with those burgeoning economies.

To assist in the reform effort, I am today announcing the establishment of an enterprise fund for Ukraine, as well as Belarus and Moldova, a fund which will help to capitalize new small businesses and provide assistance to existing firms that seek to privatize.

Over the last year, the United States has also provided \$155 million in assistance to Ukraine. We are prepared to increase our support substantially as Ukraine moves toward economic reform. Under such circumstances, I also believe the international community would be likely to provide significant support and investment

to Ukraine, and I am prepared to work hard to see that that support and investment come to pass.

To begin this work we will be pleased to invite later this month a senior Ukrainian economic delegation.

I believe that Ukraine can play a major role in the future of Europe, a Europe whose security is not based on division, but on the possibility of integration, based on democracy market economics, and mutual respect for the existing borders of nations.

I'm looking forward to seeing President Kravchuk in Moscow Friday and to welcoming him to Washington for an official visit in March.

LEONID KRAVCHUK

Kyiv, Jan. 12, 1994 ...I think that the most urgent problem and the most important problem for the whole world now is the problem of nuclear weapons, and we have approached its solution. And I am sure that this day and the forthcoming days open the way for the world for disarmament and for the elimination of nuclear weapons. And Ukraine will be committed to its obligations and Ukraine will be the state which will not stand in the way of disarmament.

A lot of time was devoted to discussing the bilateral relations between Ukraine and the United States, and I'm glad that the President of the United States and the United States support our country in this time of hardship.

And I'm sure that this sort of cooperation and support is real support for all independent states which have emerged on the basis of the former Soviet Union...

For us, it is very important that there be an understanding on the part of the President of the United States on the urgency for support to Ukraine in carrying out its economic reform and support for its reform processes. I'm happy that the President of the United States will support our country in such international financial structures as the International Monetary Fund, the World bank, and the European Bank for the Reconstruction and Development. We understand that we

have to be decisive in carrying out reforms, and we are ready for that. And we're happy with the development of our trade relations and the new prospects opening up.

We support the initiative of the United States, its Partnership for Peace program, which we consider to be the universal formula which enables the participation of all countries.

We understand that this program does not solve all the problems of security, but it nonetheless offers the possibility for all states to participate.

I'd like to greet you once again, Mr. President, here in Ukraine, and I would like to point out that in all issues we have discussed, we have found joint common viewpoints. This meeting was short but it was very fruitful, and it opened a new stage in the development of the Ukrainian-American relations, which I am confident will be long-term and reliable.

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