



BREAKING STORIES

● SEVEN CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON JUNE 26

Kyiv... Seven candidates are ready to enter the Ukrainian presidential elections, even as more and more political leaders are clamouring for their postponement. The candidates include: Leonid Kravchuk (Ukraine's present leader); Leonid Kuchma, head of the Inter-Regional Bloc for Reforms; Ivan Pliushch, former parliamentary speaker; Oleksander Moroz, leader of the Ukrainian Socialist Party; Volodymyr Lanovy, head of the Centre for Economic Reforms; Petro Talanchuk, Ukraine's Education Minister; and Valery Babych, president of the Ukrainian Financial Group.

Leonid Kuchma and Levko Lukianenko, former Ambassador to Canada and Ukrainian Republican Party candidate, both stated that the elections should be postponed. In varying degrees they support statements by President Leonid Kravchuk, who had repeatedly asserted that a popular vote for president should be delayed until a law better defining the power of the President and that of regional leaders is passed by the Parliament.

● NEW PARLIAMENT ELECTS SPEAKER

Kyiv ... The leader of Ukraine's Socialist Party, Oleksander Moroz, who is supported by the leftist bloc that controls Parliament -- Communists, Socialists and Agrarian Party -- was elected chairman of Ukraine's Parliament on May 18, 1994. Moroz, 50, opposes radical measures to restructure the economy and advocates closer ties with Russia. Parliament then appointed two Deputy Heads from left-oriented parties, Alexander Tkachenko, leader of the Agrarian Party, and Oleh Demin, VP of the Ukrainian-Siberian Corporation.

● UKRAINE DEACTIVATES MISSILES

Kyiv... Ukraine has taken off military alert nearly all its 46 SS-24 strategic missiles in a major step towards total nuclear disarmament. The process of deactivation is nearly complete, confirmed senior Defense Ministry officials. The nuclear weapons have been removed and flight patterns deprogrammed. Each SS-24, the most powerful missile in the former Soviet nuclear arsenal, holds 10 nuclear warheads, all targeted at the United States. Ukraine has also dismantled nearly one-third of SS-19's, also inherited from the former Soviet Union, and has sent a third shipment of 60 nuclear warheads to Russia for dismantling in early May. This is in line with a pact signed last January by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States and Russia, according to which Ukraine is to deactivate the SS-24 missiles and ship at least 200 nuclear warheads to Russia for destruction by October 1994.

● DEAL REACHED TO DIFFUSE CRIMEAN CRISIS

Simferopol, June 4 ... Ukraine and Crimea have signed an accord whereby Crimea agrees it is Ukrainian territory and falls under its laws. The Crimean Parliament precipitated the crisis when it voted in early May in favour of a constitution allowing for separate Crimean citizenship, an independent militia, and renegotiation of the peninsula's relationship with Ukraine. Ukraine's parliament overruled the vote and gave the Crimean Assembly, dominated by Russian nationalists, an ultimatum to conform to the laws and Constitution of Ukraine. The new deal states that " the delegations of Ukraine and Crimea, basing on the principles of territorial integrity of Ukraine, of which Crimea is a part, and of the superiority of the Ukrainian constitution over all Ukrainian territory, have agreed that the 1992 constitution of Crimea contains sections which contradict the Ukrainian constitution." A working group is to work out any differences.

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Cover photo: Foreign ministers André Ouellet (l) and Anatoly Zlenko (r) sign Joint Declaration on Special Partnership between Canada and Ukraine, in Kyiv, March 31, 1994. Standing behind Minister Ouellet is Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine François Mathys.



At a ceremony in Government House in Ottawa, His Excellency Rt. Hon. Ramon Hnatyshyn, Governor General of Canada (l) received His Excellency Victor Batyuk (r), who presented his Letters of Credence as Ambassador of Ukraine. (Photo: Sgt Bertrand Thibeault, Rideau Hall)