



this year. We think it would be warranted to use a part of this sum of regular payments for the future energy supply to Ukraine by Russia, by Turkmenistan and by others.

**Third.** On her part, Russia as the principal creditor of Ukraine is prepared to seek solutions which will alleviate the Ukrainian burden of debt. We are ready to discuss additional measures for achieving this goal.

In this context I declare that my country is prepared to join the Paris Club of creditors as the major creditor of Ukraine. We hope that Ukraine will conclude with Russia in the near future an agreement on the zero option concerning rights and obligations as to the external state debts and assets of the former USSR. As I already mentioned, we are serving also the Ukrainian share of this debt. We are in favour of concluding a bilateral agreement setting the problem of the internal debt of the former USSR.

There is a special problem demanding urgent actions: Ukraine's debt to Russia for energy resources and other commodities. We hope that after the conference Ukraine will ensure timely and complete payments for servicing her debts to Russia - both with regard to state credits and imports from Russia.

We think that the IMF could promote both the Ukrainian reform and our assistance to this country by granting Russia the reverse credit. It could do it before mid-December. Needless to say how important it is both for Russia and for other members of the CIS. The Paris club could take a similar effort restructuring the debt of the ex-USSR before February 1995. We assume that the forthcoming international financial assistance will be used by Ukraine at least partially for paying her debts and other obligations to Russia.

Russia is prepared, under certain conditions, to postpone from the last semester of 1994 to February 1 1995, Ukraine's payment of the principal debt and of interest which was transformed into state debt. The total amount of these payments is 365 mln. dollars. We hope also that our two countries will conclude an agreement on restructuring the Ukrainian debt to Russia which is over-due. If we come to terms on these measures with our Ukrainian friends, this alone will mean Russian assistance to this country amounting to 700 mln. dollars.

We are very concerned by the problem of safety of nuclear power plants in the former USSR. We welcome the readiness of the international community to help Ukraine in financing this effort. We can, of course, provide necessary equipment for the Ukrainian nuclear power plants. The problem of nuclear non-proliferation will not be discussed directly at your conference. Nonetheless I am sure that other participants share the following Russian attitude: The sooner Ukraine joins the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the sooner it will improve the climate for solving the important international problem of assisting economic reforms in this country. In fact, this is the attitude of the G7 nations, as it was reflected in their Naples declaration.

The recent statements by President Kuchma and his government make us confident that Ukraine is on the road of reforms. This will help Russian reforms as well. We are facing stubborn opposition to reforms on the part of nationalists. And here I would like to add a touch of humour. Just yesterday Mr. Zhirinovsky said in the Parliament that it makes no sense to discuss the budget proposed by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. Why? Because this budget was drafted in the CIA! And that there is no sense in changing the government, since the new government has already been selected by the Kremlin and the CIA together... I hope that the very nature of this conference, as well as the nature of other similar international efforts aimed at helping reforms in Russia and in other countries of the CIS, is the best proof that our actions are dictated not by the CIA, or by KGB, but by the will of our people.

**Editor's Note:**

*Ukraine is committed to pay off US\$72 million of its approximately \$1.4 billion debt to Russia for natural gas with a grant from the United States. Economy Minister Roman Shpek noted Dec.23, that the transfer of the money to the Russian gas company Gazprom will be made in the immediate future. The grant, which is part of a \$200 million aid package promised to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma by US President Bill Clinton during Kuchma's visit to the United States in November, has been placed in a special bank account for Ukraine's use.*

**WINNIPEG**

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources Development, Ukrainian Canadian Congress Dinner with President Kuchma, Oct. 26, 1994**

...In the Department of Human Resources and Western Diversification, we have an opportunity to build some new links, some new sharing of resources. I would like to propose tonight, on behalf of the Government of Canada, that we would first offer through my Department of Human Resources, aid and assistance in helping your government to set up a new Labour Employment Program to provide workers with the opportunity and ways to get labour information, training in other areas, and we can provide the technical assistance for such programs.

And I would also like to add, again, as part of the responsibility I have for higher education at the federal level, in addition to the program of academic exchange, that we will offer to provide resources for Ukrainians to come to this country

and study in the area of employment and job creation. Canada can help your government at both the academic faculty and student level through exchange programs, because I believe that with young people, exchange is the best way to establish those foundations.



R. PULLANO

Mr. President, we also have here in Manitoba some interesting experimental innovations in how we work in rural areas to help local, economic development. We have a program called Community Futures which works closely with the Manitoba Premier's government in bringing together business, labour, farm and agricultural leaders with some capital to start small businesses at the local community, rural level. It's a partnership arrangement and we've been internationally recognized for innovation in this area. And I would like to propose tonight that one of the Community futures areas in Manitoba, in the Parkland area of Manitoba, be twinned with the similar area of Ukraine so that we can work together in that wonderful experiment of bringing rural Canada and rural Ukraine together to provide new opportunities for economic development between our two countries.

... Mr. President, we will (also) be opening a new resource business centre for women to start assistance in developing businesses and self employment for women across western Canada. In my proposal, Mr. President, we will aid the women's organizations and networks from resource centres in Canada to work with similar organizations in Ukraine to bring the women of our two countries together in something.

So, Mr. President, it is in those ways I think that we can have a community where people prevail, by giving people real opportunities to come together.