



Ukraine has been a participant in the Geneva convention on authors' rights since 1973. In addition to the Geneva Convention, which defines general legal principals on copyrights, Ukraine is preparing to sign bilateral agreements with both the Commonwealth of Independent States and European countries, Oleksey Kotsjuba, Head of the State Committee on Copyright Law, told the workshop.

A set of amendments to the criminal code is now being prepared by the Cabinet of Ministers, in which penalties including confiscation of property and prison are envisaged for those who violate copyright laws. *(IntelNews)*

NORTHERN TELECOM TO LAY FIBER CABLE LINE KYIV-ODESSA

On March 31 at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv, top executives of the Canadian firm Northern Telecom and Ukrainian Enterprise for International and Intercity Communications and Television (Ukrtek) signed a contract to build 1,200 km of optical fiber line Kyiv-Odessa within the framework of international project ITUR.

"Northern Telecom's success means Canadian technology will give Ukraine a competitive edge in bringing its products and ideas to the world," said Ambassador François Mathys at the signing ceremony. "This breakthrough will be a signal to other Canadian exporters and investors that Ukraine is really opening up for business."

The international ITUR project envisions laying of modern optical fiber lines on the territory of four countries: Italy, Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia. The line will run from Palermo to Istanbul, pass on the Black Sea bottom, and then branch into two land lines -- Odessa-Kyiv, and Novorossiisk-Moscow. Participation in the project will enable Ukraine access to European and international telecommunications networks.

Northern Telecom and its Italian partner Pirelli Construction Company Ltd. have won the contract worth \$14 million

in a tender. The project will be financed with a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development credit of \$53 million granted to Ukrtek with the Ukrainian government as guarantor.

According to Ukrtek Director General Viktor Zhenzhera, \$18 million of the credit total amount will make up Ukraine's contribution into construction of underwater line Istanbul-Odessa which is already in progress.

Northern Telecom will commence to lay the Kyiv-Odessa line immediately. All necessary equipment are to be supplied within the next two months.

Under the contract, Northern Telecom will be responsible for delivery of equipment and organization of work in general, whereas Pirelli Construction Company Ltd. will be responsible for the supply of cabling and construction work. The line is to be commissioned on March 18, 1996.

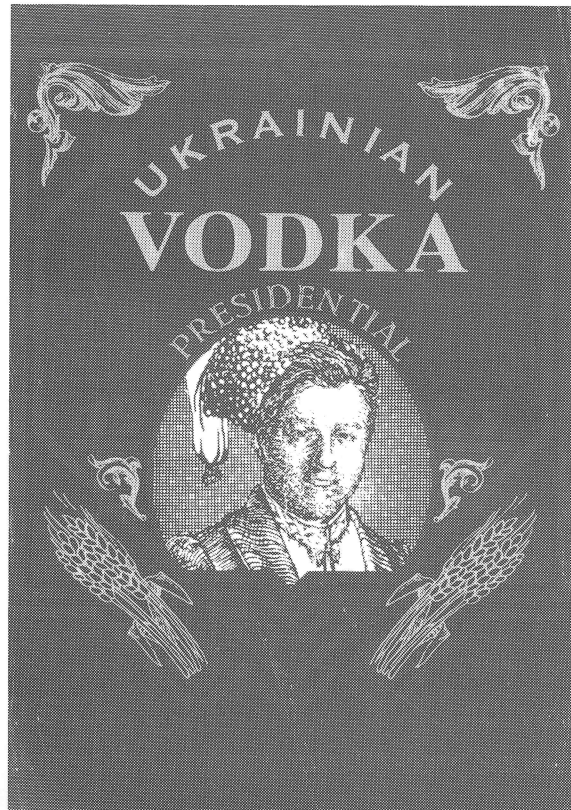
After the signing ceremony, Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine François Mathys

underlined that taking part in the project will also be Ukrainian companies Attis Telekom, Svemon and MTM, and more than \$4 million will be assigned to create new jobs for Ukrainian specialists.

Due to the fact that Northern Telecom has proposed to implement the work involved in the project at a cost below the one which was planned and coordinated with the EBRD earlier (\$18 million), Ukraine has obtained an opportunity to allocate the \$4 million thus saved for construction of an optical fiber line Kyiv-Chernihiv-Gomel which would provide access to the Baltics, St. Petersburg, and Scandinavian countries, the Ukrtek general director pointed out.

The prime contractor, Northern Telecom, is a world leader in advanced digital telecommunications technology, with annual revenues of US \$8.5 billion and operations in over 100 countries.

WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING?



President Clinton's portrait depicting him in a Cossack hat and embroidered shirt appeared on 2,000 bottles of Ukrainian vodka, named "Presidentskaya" in his honour, in Kyiv on the occasion of his visit to Ukraine in May. The 80-proof vodka was produced by Zhytomyr Vodka Distillery in less than three weeks, a record in the world of Ukrainian business. "Clintova", as it was nicknamed by locals, was commissioned by the US Embassy Employees' Association. A good time was had by all. (hic!)

