



U.S. PRESIDENT VISITS UKRAINE

KYIV, May 16, 1995 ... The U.S. will give Ukraine extra help to complete its destruction of nuclear weapons and proceed with converting defence plants to civilian use, said the presidents of both countries.

Presidents Bill Clinton and Leonid Kuchma, in a statement issued after a day of talks, also announced a Ukrainian cosmonaut would fly aboard the U.S. space shuttle in October 1997.

The statement said \$10 million US had been allocated to Ukraine for defence conversion, \$10 million to help eliminate sites associated with what

remained of Ukraine's share of the former Soviet nuclear arsenal and \$7 million for other defence projects.

Washington also allocated more than \$1 million to help finance Ukrainian participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace program and promised \$10 million more next year -- one-tenth of total financing for former Communist States.

Clinton praised Ukraine's Western-backed efforts to introduce reforms and reaffirmed a commitment to provide \$250 million in credits to finance imports, the statement said.

The leaders pledged to co-operate to restructure Ukraine's energy sector and improve atom reactor safety. Kyiv is to work with the G-7 leading industrialized countries on closing Chornobyl - site of the world's worst nuclear accident - by the year 2000. There was no word on funding for this.

Clinton's talks in Ukraine contrasted sharply with his one-day summit in Moscow on Wednesday with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The two locked horns over nuclear sales to Iran, Chechnya and NATO expansion.

(With files from Reuters)

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the spirit of the Charter of American-Ukrainian Partnership, Friendship and Cooperation, signed during President Kuchma's State visit to the United States in 1994, the two Presidents agreed to a program of cooperation, assistance and consultation aimed at strengthening their growing partnership.
- President Clinton reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to provide \$250 million in support to help Ukraine meet its critical import needs in 1995. President Clinton noted that most of the assistance will be provided in the form of an innovative agricultural trade credit insurance facility and announced that assistance will also be made available in the form of a new package of initiatives to help generate agricultural development in Ukraine. The package includes technical assistance for the development of an agricultural commodity exchange which will provide a private market alternative channel for such commodities, and technical assistance for the development of an agricultural market news system and for the safe handling of agricultural chemicals.
- President Clinton announced a new program of technical assistance and training to support credit union development in response to Ukraine's interest in expanding the availability of savings and credits services to consumers and small businesses.
- President Kuchma requested urgent international technical assistance to facilitate valuation of Ukrainian enterprises subject to privatization in the oil, gas and chemical industry.
- President Clinton announced that the U.S. Export-Import Bank has reopened its programs in Ukraine, making available short and medium-term financing for U.S. exports guaranteed by the Ukrainian Government.
- The Presidents were pleased to note the announced formation of the U.S. Ukraine Business Council as an indication of the growing interest of U.S. companies to establish commercial relationships with Ukraine.
- President Clinton announced the U.S. intention to support the establishment of an international nuclear safety and environmental center to promote a high level of nuclear safety, drawing on the skilled nuclear power employees in the Chornobyl region.
- In continuation of civil space cooperation between the two countries, President Clinton and President Kuchma announced that a Ukrainian cosmonaut would fly aboard NASA space shuttle mission STS-87, scheduled for launch in October 1997.
- Both Presidents agreed on the importance of educational and professional exchanges noting that \$8.2 million will be made available in 1995 for Ukrainian graduate students, undergraduates and secondary school students to study in the U.S.
- President Clinton announced the availability of up to an additional \$10 million for defence conversion; up to \$10 million in funding for nuclear infrastructure elimination projects; up to an additional \$5 million for the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine; and up to additional \$2 million for defence and military contacts.
- The two Presidents acknowledged that an independent and stable Ukraine, secure in its internationally recognized borders, constitutes a key factor of stability and security in Europe.