



INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL RELATIONS

PRESIDENT KUCHMA VISITS WASHINGTON

Washington, Feb. 24, 1996... When President Leonid Kuchma paid a working visit to Washington, President Clinton rolled out the red carpet. The Ukrainian leader met with the President, Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin. Administration spokesmen discussed the importance of Ukraine and the strength of ties between the nations. "This is a very close relationship. It's very deep, and it's very broad, and it extends to extremely close relations on economic issues, a new and burgeoning military relationship," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns, an expert on the former Soviet republics.

Ukraine is now the No. 4 recipient of combined military and economic assistance from the United States, after Israel, Egypt and Russia, Mr. Burns said. In terms of economic aid alone, it is the third-largest recipient, having surpassed Russia this year. Of all the former Soviet republics in the Russian-led Commonwealth of Independent States, Ukraine was the first to declare itself for NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

Senior U.S. officials say the importance given by U.S. leaders to Ukraine, which is the size of France and has 53 million people, is no surprise development this year. They date the turnaround in U.S.-Ukraine relations to Mr. Christopher's first visit to Kyiv in October 1993. That trip set in motion negotiations that led to Ukraine's full compliance with the U.S.-Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. In January 1994, Ukraine agreed to give up the huge nuclear arsenal it inherited from the Soviet Union. It had more nuclear weapons than China, Britain or France.

Christopher had earlier said the United States would back Kyiv in its efforts to get the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to release

Newsbriefs are compiled by Monitor staff with materials from newspapers and news services, including: Ukrainian News, Ukrainian Weekly, Ukrainian Voice, Homin Ukrainy, Ukrinform, Eastern Economist, UCIS, INFOBANK, OMRI, Reuters, United Press International, ITAR-TASS, and the Update on Ukraine (Council of Advisors to the Presidium of the Parliament of Ukraine).

another \$350 million as part of a \$1.5 billion standby agreement. Some \$800 million has already been dispersed. "We want to be of help in any way we can as they stay on the path to economic reform. We are supporting the reform effort and will be supporting them in connection with the IMF," Christopher told reporters. Praising Kuchma, he said Washington has "regard for him and his courage" in pushing forward with economic reform. The U.S. Secretary of State is to pay his second visit to Kyiv on March 18-22.

Ukraine's top economic specialists were in Washington to discuss the standby agreement. Ukraine also signed an agreement with the U.S. to enter the commercial satellite-launch market, and offer prices close to those of U.S. companies. The accord, signed by President Kuchma and Vice President Al Gore, expires in 2001, and allows Ukraine to enter the international space market on its own or in conjunction with a U.S.-led joint venture.

The agreement permits Ukraine to win up to five contracts for launches into geosynchronous earth orbit and up to 11 contracts for the U.S.-Ukrainian joint venture until 2001.

- For full WASHINGTON TIMES story, see FOR THE RECORD section: "Russian nationalism draws Ukraine, U.S. closer," page 58.

UKRAINE ENTERS COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Nov. 9, 1995...

Ukraine was officially admitted to the Council of Europe (CE) in Strasbourg, France, as its 37th member. A Ukrainian delegation headed by Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk participated in the flag-raising festivities, along with Migel Martinez, Chairman of the CE Parliamentary Assembly and Daniel Tarschys, General Secretary. Also in attendance were Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatiy, and Borys

Oliylyk, Chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Policy and CIS Relations Committee.

In his speech at the ceremony, the Prime Minister stressed that the accession of Ukraine to the CE testified to the recognition of the progressive changes performed by Ukraine in a relatively short period of time, as well as the support by the European Community for the democratic processes that are currently underway.

While in Strasbourg, Foreign Minister Udovenko signed the European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Basic Liberties. Minister Udovenko also participated in the 97th session of the CE Council of Ministers. At the session, he stated that Ukraine regarded its admission to the CE as an acknowledgement of Ukraine's achievements in democratic reforms. He evaluated the prospects for the implementation of the democratic security concept in Europe, and pointed out that the active partnership collaboration of all respective European and Transatlantic institutions – namely the Council of Europe, OSCE, EC, NATO – is essential for the efficient cooperation aimed at the creation of an all-European security system.



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Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma with British Prime Minister John Major during a visit last December. At meetings with the PM and Queen Elizabeth II, President Kuchma invited both to visit Ukraine next year, and Major accepted the invitation. He also met with EBRD representatives who promised \$75 million to Ukrainian enterprises and \$50 million in foreign trade financing, to be used primarily to restructure Ukraine's energy sector.