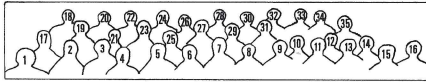




UKRAINE'S AMBASSADORS IN KYIV APRIL 1, 1993



Front Row (l-r):

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|
| 1 | R. Lubkiwsky | Czech Republic, Slovakia |
| 2 | A. Oliynyk | General Consulate, Chicago |
| 3 | O. Bilorus | United States |
| 4 | V. Kryzhanivsky | Russia |
| 5 | M. Makarevych | First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 6 | Leonid Kuchma | Prime Minister of Ukraine |
| 7 | A. Zlenko | Minister of Foreign Affairs |
| 8 | H. Oudovenko | Poland |
| 9 | O. Sanduliak | Romania |
| 10 | A. Orel | Italy |
| 11 | Y. Kochubey | France |
| 12 | B. Komeyenko | Greece |
| 13 | V. Lipatov | Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs |
| 14 | V. Batiuk | United Nations |
| 15 | L. Lukianenko | Canada |
| 16 | V. Vasylenko | Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands |

Back rows (l-r):

- | | | |
|----|----------------|--|
| 17 | V. Prymachenko | Chargé d'affaires, Yugoslavia |
| 18 | O. Makarenko | Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs |
| 19 | K. Masyk | Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway |
| 20 | B. Tarasiuk | Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs |
| 21 | V. Pliushko | People's Republic of China |
| 22 | O. Slipchenko | Switzerland |
| 23 | Y. Shcherbak | Israel |
| 24 | I. Turiansky | Turkey |
| 25 | M. Zheliba | Belarus |
| 26 | V. Chorniy | Dept. of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 27 | V. Vorobyov | Bulgaria |
| 28 | V. Boyko | Moldova |
| 29 | I. Piskovy | Germany |
| 30 | O. Maydan | Chargé d'affaires, Iran |
| 31 | Y. Kostenko | Austria |
| 32 | V. Nahaychuk | Egypt |
| 33 | A. Ponomarenko | Consul General, Munich (Germany) |
| 34 | A. Ozodovsky | Ambassador-at-large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 35 | S. Komisarenko | Great Britain |

NUCLEAR ARMS IN UKRAINE: RELICS OF THE COLD WAR

by Andrij Vesselovsky
Minister Counsellor
Embassy of Ukraine in Canada

In the process of disintegration of the Soviet Union, particularly in the agreements reached in Minsk and Alma-Ata in 1991 and 1992, it was concluded that all republics, from Russia to Kazakhstan, become owners of all assets on their respective territories. Thus nuclear arms on our territory became the property of Ukraine. It took only a few days for the former ethnic province to become the third most powerful nuclear state in the world after the USA and Russia.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was left with 130 SS-19 and 46 SS-24 multiple-warhead intercontinental missiles based on its territory. Ukraine has taken charge of a powerful destructive force. But this status has tempted neither Ukraine's political leaders, nor the population at large.

Even before the dissolution of the USSR, on July 16, 1991 Ukraine proclaimed the Declaration on the State Sovereignty which states that Ukraine will "strive towards a non-nuclear status". Ukraine reconfirmed its intentions in numerous official statements by the President, the Supreme Council (Parliament), the Government, and spokespersons for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On May 23, 1992 Ukraine signed the Lisbon Protocol, thus becoming a party to the START Treaty. Ukraine declared that it will become the first state which possesses nuclear weapons but does not wish to remain a nuclear state, and that it will remove nuclear weapons from its territory and will join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear state.

The question is: Why is Ukraine subject to criticism on the nuclear question? Why are nuclear weapons still on its ter-

ritory? Why has Ukraine not yet ratified the START-1, has not yet signed the NPT Treaty? Unfortunately in the mass media, the subject of Ukraine's nuclear power is generally limited to an account of its nuclear missiles and to a confirmation that they remain in place. Yet, realistically, Ukraine on its own cannot legally, physically or economically remove the nuclear weapons from its soil.

Modern intercontinental rockets are complicated electronic, chemical and technical complexes. Their dismantling and destruction calls for specialized skills and requires substantial expenditures. As a country in an economic crisis Ukraine is not in a position to reassign the most qualified experts from other critical tasks, to allocate hundreds of millions of dollars to finance this operation, or to build special facilities needed for dismantling. For these reasons, taking into account their value, Ukraine has proposed the establishment of an International Nuclear Disarmament Fund which would ensure proper and efficient dismantling consistent with technical standards. The task, according to our estimates, is likely to cost the world about 1.5 billion dollars. It's a substantial amount. But then, if one compares it with the sum spent annually on such things as, say, Barbie dolls, which reportedly amounts to 25 billion dollars, then the amount becomes very modest. I would guess that the cost of all the paper used this past year to write about Ukraine's "bad record" in the area of nuclear disarmament must by now exceed 1.5 billion dollars!

These are only the technical and financial sides of the nuclear weapons problem, weapons that belong to Ukraine, are stationed on its territory, but are not subject to its operational control.