



Press Conference on Parliament Hill after signing of the G-7 Memorandum of Understanding on Chernobyl

Community (Euratom) already agreed in 1994. This program includes completion of two half-built reactors at Khmelnytsky (Unit 2) and Rivno (Unit 4) as well as modernization of conventional and hydroelectric plants, some pumped storage projects and improvements in energy efficiency. The

Canada and Ukraine sign bilateral nuclear co-operation agreement

At the G-7 Chernobyl Agreement signing in Ottawa, Canada and Ukraine also signed a nuclear co-operation agreement to open the way for bilateral trade in nuclear material and equipment for peaceful purposes and help Ukraine meet its growing energy needs.

"This agreement will allow the Canadian nuclear industry to pursue commercial opportunities in support of the restructuring of Ukraine's energy sector," said Foreign Affairs Minister Oullet. "Canada has considerable expertise in nuclear power production, as well as in other peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Our industry can make a major contribution to Ukraine's safety, modernization and future growth."

The agreement was signed by Deputy PM and Minister of Environment Sheila Copps and by Ukraine's Acting Head of State Committee on the Use of Nuclear Energy, N.R. Nigmatullin. It is fully consistent with Canada's stringent nuclear non-proliferation policy. Ukraine is the 34th country with which Canada has a nuclear co-operation agreement. Both Canada and Ukraine are signatories of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and have full-scope safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

nuclear safety component is expected to include 137 million ECU (\$175.5 million) already allocated from the European TACIS funding program from the former Soviet Union as well as \$200 million from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) administered Nuclear Safety Account.

their European neighbours unless the ruins are properly buried and the complex closed. He said Ukraine will be looking for additional assistance once the technical plans are complete. Other Ukrainian officials have estimated the full cleanup costs of Chernobyl at \$4 billion. The agreement calls for a "need to mobilize financial resources from the international community and domestic sources" and to "facilitate the flow of international financial resources." Under the agreement, "Ukrainian in-kind and financial contributions will be defined as projects are developed," enabling Kyiv to contribute as much as its resources and economy will allow.

The issue of rebuilding the sarcophagus over the highly radioactive ruined reactor no. 4 and the closure deadline will depend on funding assistance in loans and grants from the international community. Minister Kostenko confirmed that, by the year 2000, reactor shutdown will be possible. "Removal of the facility and ensuring its ecological safety will take over a decade," he said. "Agreements should be signed with every G-7 member obliging it to help Ukraine after 2000. If Ukraine remains alone, it will have to do as its economic and financial circumstances dictate."

Minister Kostenko also said that 15 other dangerous Chernobyl-type nuclear power stations in Russia and other former Soviet republics are not safe and should be shut down before they also become the sites of accidents. One of them is situated in an active earthquake zone in the energy-starved republic of Armenia.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE

Environment Minister Sheila Copps said that it took an act of political courage for the Ukrainian government to agree to the shutdown because of the economic hardship it will cause Ukrainians. But the MOU is to develop plans to alleviate the social impact of the closure.

Ukraine's Environment Minister Yuriy Kostenko said the agreement, while not legally binding, is a first step, since the financial aid package may not be enough to cover the costs of sealing the Chernobyl site, disposing of tons of radioactive waste from a thousand dumps, completing the cleanup and providing new sources of electric power. International nuclear experts say that Chernobyl will remain a long-term environmental and health hazard to Ukrainians and



Canadian and Ukrainian representatives and guests at the signing of the bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement by Ukraine's Acting Head of the Use of Nuclear Energy Nur R. Nigmatullin and Canada's Deputy PM and Environment Minister Sheila Copps.