



INTERNATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS

PRESIDENT KUCHMA ADDRESSES COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Strasbourg, April 23, 1996... Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma addressed the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and emphasized Ukraine's aims to become a full-fledged member of the European Union. Mr. Kuchma reiterated that NATO should not be enlarged without taking Russia's interests into account, but added that he is not opposed to the alliance's expansion. He noted that creating a nuclear-free zone in Eastern Europe would have a stabilizing effect on European developments. He called upon the international community to help finance the resettlement of minority groups who were deported by Stalin and now want to return to their former homelands in Ukraine.

UKRAINE COMPLETES NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT; CANADA WELCOMES DECISION

Kyiv, June 5, 1996... Ukraine officially completed its nuclear disarmament with a scattering of sunflower seeds by the defence ministers of the United States, Ukraine and Russia. The ceremony marked further implementation of an agreement signed in January 1994 by Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, then Ukraine's President. Under this agreement, Ukraine formally acceded to the Non-proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state. In return, Washington pledged \$400 million to help dismantle the missiles and turn

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

missile bases into areas for civilian use.

In the early 1990s, there were more nuclear warheads on Ukrainian territory than any other country than the U.S. and Russia.

Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy expressed support for this milestone. "Canadians recognize and appreciate the determination with which Ukraine has moved to rid itself of nuclear weapons, and we rejoice with Ukrainians that the last of these weapons has now left their country," Mr. Axworthy said. He added that, like Canada, Ukraine has decided not to possess its own nuclear weapons and welcomed this decision.

ECONOMIC REFORMER UKRAINE'S NEW PM

May 28, 1996... President Kuchma appointed 43-year-old Paul Ivanovich Lazarenko to replace Yevhen Marchuk as Ukraine's Prime Minister. Mr. Lazarenko is former First Deputy Prime Minister, an economist and Member of Parliament from the Dnipropetrovsk oblast (as is the President). He supports the President's social and economic reform policies and directions, and is a strong advocate of structural changes in Ukraine's economy, acceleration of privatization and growth of foreign investment. The new Prime Minister was born on January 23, 1953 and educated in agricultural studies. He was Presidential representative for Dnipropetrovsk in 1992, and from 1994, head of the oblast (regional administration). He is married with three children.



UKRAINE-EU SESSION

May 8, 1996... The Ukrainian-EU Joint Committee concluded its second session with a reception in Kyiv. During meetings that began in Brussels last week, delegates focused on different issues of Ukrainian economic reform. The EU noted considerable progress in reform over the past year, particularly in macroeconomic gains such as a reduced budget deficit, lower inflation, and exchange rate stabilization. But it stressed that much effort still needs to be made toward privatization and reconstruction of the indus-

trial and energy sectors.

The parties agreed to coordinate Ukrainian draft laws with the EU in order to bring Ukrainian law into compliance with international and European standards. A memorandum drawn up by the two sides states that foreign investment is crucial to Ukrainian economic recovery. A schedule for TACIS assistance in 1996-99 was also agreed upon. (EE)

UKRAINE APPROVES CONSTITUTION

Kyiv, June 28, 1996... Ukraine approved its first post-Soviet constitution after an all-night session in parliament (Verkhovna Rada).

"This is an historic event," a beaming President Leonid Kuchma told the chamber after deputies backed the constitution by a 315-36 vote and broke into warm applause. "Wisdom has triumphed today."

Ukraine's presidential form of government remains, and includes presidential elections every five years (next in 1999) and a 450-member parliament. The historic blue-and-yellow flag becomes Ukraine's national flag, and the tryzub (trident) - official emblem. Enshrined in the constitution are Ukrainian as official language, guarantees for other language rights, and rights to own private property, including land.

IMF APPROVES LOAN FOR UKRAINE

April-May, 1996... The International Monetary Fund approved a new standby loan for Ukraine after ironing out administrative details for controlling inflation and expenditure goals. According to Oleh Hawrylyshyn, IMF's alternate executive director for Ukraine, the new standby will provide essentially what was earlier agreed to, mainly \$900 mln. for the remainder of 1996. The IMF voted in May to grant Ukraine nearly \$900 mln. in 1996, and to provide a fifth stand-by tranche (worth another \$100 mln.) immediately, according to IMF Executive Director De Beaufort Wijnholds, who met with National Bank Governor Viktor Yushchenko and Deputy PM for the Economy Roman Shepek in Kyiv.

According to the IMF's representative in Ukraine, Alex Sundakov, before the end of 1996 the IMF intends to disburse nine closely monitored monthly loan installments of about \$100 mln. each.