

Ukraine Nuclear Chronology

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Last update: April 2010

This page was archived in 2007, however it will be updated as needed.

This annotated chronology is based on the data sources that follow each entry. Public sources often provide conflicting information on classified military programs. In some cases we are unable to resolve these discrepancies, in others we have deliberately refrained from doing so to highlight the potential influence of false or misleading information as it appeared over time. In many cases, we are unable to independently verify claims. Hence in reviewing this chronology, readers should take into account the credibility of the sources employed here.

Inclusion in this chronology does not necessarily indicate that a particular development is of direct or indirect proliferation significance. Some entries provide international or domestic context for technological development and national policymaking. Moreover, some entries may refer to developments with positive consequences for nonproliferation.

2010-2000

12 April 2010

UKRAINE ANNOUNCES THAT ALL HEU WILL BE REMOVED FROM ITS TERRITORY BY THE TIME OF THE 2012 NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT

At the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington D.C., President Yanukovich announced that all Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) would be removed from Ukraine by the time of the next Nuclear Security Summit in 2012. It was hoped that half of this material would be removed by the end of 2010. The majority of the HEU (approximately 75 kg) was being stored at the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology, with a smaller volume of material also being stored at the Sevastopol Institute of Nuclear Energy and Industry.

—"Joint Statement by President Obama, Ukraine President Yanukovich," The White House, www.whitehouse.gov, 12 April 2010.

15 May 2009

PRESIDENT VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO VOWS NOT TO DEPLOY NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR FOREIGN FORCES ON UKRAINIAN TERRITORY SHOULD UKRAINE JOIN NATO

In a speech made to Swiss Businessmen in Reitnau, Switzerland on 15 May, President Viktor Yushchenko vowed not to allow the deployment of nuclear weapons or foreign forces on Ukrainian soil should the country join NATO, reported Itar-Tass. Yushchenko stated that "the constitution prohibits the deployment of nuclear armaments in Ukraine," and he again linked the subject to NATO accession by claiming that Europe should support Ukraine's accession to the Alliance in order to prevent "smouldering conflicts on territories of the former Soviet Union."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



—"Ukraine ready to vow non-deployment of nuclear armaments — Yushchenko", ITAR-TASS, 15 May 2009; Open Source Center Document CEP20090515950326.

15 April 2009

US AMBASSADOR TO UKRAINE STATES THAT THE US WILL AID UKRAINE IN THE DISPOSAL OF MISSILES FORMERLY USED FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

An unattributed report on NuclearNo.ru Online from 15 April stated that the United States Ambassador to Ukraine, William Taylor, expressed confidence that the US Congress would provide assistance towards the disposal of missile fuel. Ambassador Taylor suggested that "I am convinced that the Congress will review the appeal by the Supreme Rada and will respond to it." This statement was made in response to the earlier appeal on 6 April to the US Congress to provide funding to facilitate the disposal of the missile fuel.

—"US to aid Ukraine with nuclear arms disposal", NuclearNo.ru, 15 April 2009; Open Source Center Document CEP20090421337002.

6 April 2009

UKRAINE ASKS THE UNITED STATES FOR FUNDING TOWARDS MISSILE FUEL DISPOSAL

Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, asked the US Congress on 6 April for funding towards the Ukrainian missile fuel disposal program. The parliament claimed that further funding was required if Ukraine was to fulfill its START-1 Treaty commitments on the disposal of solid fuel from RS-22 intercontinental ballistic missiles. Interfax reported on 6 April that a parliamentary source claimed "we have to say that the United States is not funding the disposal of missile fuel." The source then went on to state that "the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada requests the US Congress ensure the funding at an amount which will allow for the soonest disposal of missile fuel and the elimination of all nuclear armaments in Ukraine."

—"Ukraine asks US for funding for missile fuel disposal", Interfax-AVN, 6 April 2009; Open Source Center Document CEP20090406950120.

2 April 2009

PRESIDENT YUSHCHENKO STATES THAT UKRAINE WILL NOT DEVELOP ITS OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Ukraine's President, Viktor Yushchenko, stated in an interview with the Ekho Moskvyy radio station on 2 April that "we will never have anybody's bases, we will never deploy our or somebody else's nuclear weapons," Itar-Tass reported. Yushchenko reinforced Ukraine's non-nuclear weapons policy and reasserted the need for NATO membership as a means of ensuring Ukraine's security and territorial integrity. He claimed that "NATO is a club that assumes responsibility for the integrity of the territory and sovereignty of each state that entered it."

—"Ukraine not to deploy nuclear weapons in its territory — Yushchenko", ITAR-TASS, 2 April 2009; Open Source Center Document CEP20090402950418.

2 October 2008

UKRAINIAN OFFICIAL DISMISSES CLAIMS THAT NATO ACCESSION WOULD BRING TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT

A spokesman for Ukraine's foreign ministry on 2 October dismissed claims that tactical nuclear weapons would be deployed in Ukraine after the country joins NATO. "The Ukrainian constitution strictly prohibits deployment of any

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[foreign] military hardware on the national territory," the spokesman was quoted as saying. Moreover, the "Ukrainian president said many times that Ukraine would never have any foreign military hardware on its territory when it entered into NATO," he noted. These remarks reportedly came as a response to Russia's national security council secretary Nikolai Patrushev's comments that both Georgia and Ukraine might "becom[e] a convenient ground for large land, air, and naval groups equipped with high-precision and tactical nuclear armaments in case of their admission to the [NATO] alliance."

—"Ukraine won't have tactical nuclear weapons on its territory," Interfax-AVN, 2 October 2008, OSC Document CEP20081002950119.

6 July 2008

UKRAINE'S DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER CLAIMS

Ukraine's Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov dismissed speculation that Ukraine had kept a small number of nuclear warheads, Interfax reported on 6 July. Instead, he noted that Ukraine could have taken more advantage of its nuclear status than it did. "Alas, we gave [the nuclear arsenal] away rather clumsily. If we had been as smart as we turned now, Ukraine could have benefited," he said. Yekhanurov made the statement at the celebration of the sixteenth anniversary of the Ukrainian Navy, which took place in Sevastopol.

—"Ukraine could have benefited from nuclear status — defense minister," ITAR-TASS, 6 July 2008; Open Source Center Document CEP20080706950093.

26 June 2008

UKRAINE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER QUESTIONS NUCLEAR WARHEAD RETURN

On 26 June 2008, chief of the Crimean party branch of the Communist Party of Ukraine, Leonid Grach, reportedly asked Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko to address Internet claims that Ukraine had disregarded its denuclearization commitments in 1995 by hiding several warheads for a future contingency instead of surrendering them to Russia. Grach stated that calls, made on 22 February 2008 by members of the pro-Yushchenko political party Pora, for Ukraine to regain its nuclear status prompted his concern. *Jane's* quoted former Security Service Ihor Smeshko as saying that Grach's letter was meant to "discredit [Ukraine] throughout the world community." The country "did not have the ability to hide such weapons and the [Secret Service] never contemplated such a measure," Smeshko concluded.

—Vladimir Starostin, "Ukraina utaila yadernoye oruzhiye? Tak utverzhdayet narodnyi deputat Leonid Grach," *Stolichnyye Novosti*, 8 July 2008; in Integrum Techno, www.integrum.com; "Ukraine: Letter to Yushchenko," *Jane's Intelligence Digest*, 4 August 2008.

26 February 2008

NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE COUNCIL MEMBER DISMISSES CALL TO RENUCLEARIZE

Responding to statements made by members of Ukraine's political party Pora on 22 February 2008, which called on Ukraine to return to the "nuclear club," Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council Secretary Raisa Bogatyreva indicated that "there can be no return to this issue." Instead, that is a need to think about "how to incorporate Ukraine into a security system that could ensure its security at a level enjoyed by the nuclear powers," Bogatyreva stated. Ukraine's former Defense Minister Aleksander Kuzmuk reportedly similarly dismissed the call to acquire nuclear weapons, arguing that a return to Ukraine's nuclear past was impossible.

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—"Ukraine cannot regain nuclear power status - national security and defense council secretary," Interfax, 26 February 2008; Open Source Center Document CEP20080226950456.; Jacob Quamme, "Ukrainian parliamentarian calls for renuclearization," *WMD Insights*, April 2008, www.wmdinsights.org.

22 February 2008

PROTESTERS CALL FOR A NUCLEAR SHIELD

On 22 February 2008, activists from Pora, a small political party supporting Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko and members of the Our Ukraine-National Self-Defense coalition, held a protest outside the Russian Embassy in Kiev. The protest was reportedly triggered by the recent statements made by Russia's President Vladimir Putin. Putin was quoted as saying that were Ukraine to agree hosting a NATO base on its territory, Russia would consider targeting missiles at the country. "We think that the nuclear threats of the Kremlin should receive an adequate answer — Ukraine must return to the 'nuclear club,' since Russia practically annulled guarantees of security, which she gave in 1994," a Pora press release stated. Pora's leader Vadislav Kaskiv indicated that he would raise the issue in Ukraine's parliament, Verkhovna Rada.

—"Piket posolstva Rossii v Kieve: Ukraina trebuyet vernut yadernyy status," IA Novyy Region — Krym, 22 February 2008; in Integrum Techno, www.integrum.com.

19 February 2008

POLLING SHOWS HALF OF UKRAINE'S POPULATION AGAINST REGAINING NUCLEAR STATUS

A poll conducted by the Kiev Gorshenin Institute of Management Issues reportedly indicated that 49.7 percent of Ukraine's population was against the country reacquiring its nuclear status. About 31 percent of respondents supported the hypothetical, while 19 percent could not answer the question. When prompted on their support of Ukraine's 1993 decision to denuclearize, 46 percent of respondents indicated that the Ukrainian government made the correct decision, while approximately 36 percent stated that the decision was incorrect. About 1 percent responded "other," and 16 percent stated that the question was "difficult to answer." The margin of error was plus or minus 2.2 percent. The poll was conducted from 7-18 February 2008 in 129 of Ukraine's localities.

—"Pochti polovina grazhdan protiv vozobnovleniya Ukrainoy statusa yadernogo gosudarstva — opros," UNIAN, 19 February 2008; in Integrum Techno, www.integrum.com.

9 August 2002

RUSSIAN WARSHIP CHECKED FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

NTV reported on 9 August 2002 that the Russian warship Samum, which was transferred from the Baltic Fleet to the Black Sea Fleet, was inspected by Ukrainian naval officers, including Ukrainian Navy Commander Admiral Mykhaylo Yezhel, for nuclear weapons upon its arrival in Sevastopol. Ukrainian officers were accompanied by Russia's Chief of the Naval Main Staff Admiral Vladimir Kravchenko, according to whom the instructions on conducting the inspection were issued at the presidential level of both countries. Ukrainian officers inspected the ship's missile tubes, and found them empty. Samum is a Project 1239 Sivuch missile corvette, a 1,260t warship whose main armament is eight 3M80 Moskit [NATO designation SS-N-22 'Sunburn'] anti-ship missiles, which are capable of carrying nuclear payloads. [CNS note: Russian warships have not carried tactical nuclear weapons since 1992 as a result of the 1991 Bush-Gorbachev tactical nuclear weapon initiatives.]

—NTV Television, 9 August 2002; in "Russia: Samum missile hovercraft deployed to Black Sea carries no nuclear

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weapons," FBIS Document CEP20020809000289.; A.S. Pavlov, *Voyennyye korabli SSSR i Rossii 1945-1995* (Yakutsk, 1994), p. 100.

12 February 2001

JOINT ICBM PRODUCTION NOT ON UKRAINE-RUSSIA SUMMIT AGENDA

On 12 February 2001 Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed a joint statement in Dnipropetrovsk (the location of the Pivdenne Design Bureau and Pivdenmash, which formerly designed and produced ICBMs) on expanding the two countries' aerospace cooperation. The joint statement addressed, among other issues, cooperation on producing space launch vehicles and transport aircraft. According to Pivdenmash General Director Yuriy Alekseyev, the issue of resuming ICBM production in Ukraine was not on the agenda due to Ukraine's non-nuclear status and to technical difficulties. At the same time, Alekseyev stated that Pivdenmash specialists have been helping Russia maintain its R-36M-series [NATO designation SS-18 'Satan'] and RT-23UTTKh [NATO designation SS-24 'Scalpel'] ICBMs. Alekseyev's remarks echoed earlier statements made by the US Ambassador to Ukraine, Carlos Pascual. Commenting on the upcoming meeting between Putin and Kuchma, Pascual stated that it would be impossible for Ukraine to cooperate with Russia on ICBM production without contravening the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Pascual also met with the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Secretary, Evhen Marchuk, who denied the possibility of cooperation with Russia in this field. —Interfax, 12 February 2001; in "Russia, Ukraine to expand cooperation in aerospace field," FBIS Document CEP20010212000161.; Mikhail Melnik, ITAR-TASS, 12 February 2001; in "Russia: Putin tour of Yuzhmash said to have no bearing on US missile defense system," FBIS Document CEP2001021000025.; "Posol SShA na Ukraine schitayet nevozmozhnym sotrudnichestvo Kieva i Moskvyy v proizvodstve mezhkontinentalnykh ballisticheskikh raket," Interfax, 3 February 2001.

13 November 2000

KUCHMA SAYS UKRAINE WILL NEVER BECOME A NUCLEAR STATE

In a discussion with students at Kiev State University's International Relations Institute on 13 November 2000, President Kuchma stated that Ukraine will never become a nuclear state. He added that Ukraine's decision not to pursue nuclear status was for economic rather than political reasons. Nuclear weapons require infrastructure and economic resources that Ukraine does not possess. Furthermore, the expertise and technology to build nuclear weapons is from Russia, not Ukraine. Kuchma explained that for these reasons Ukraine was compelled to forego nuclear weapons.

—UNIAN, "Ukraina nikogda ne budet yadernym gosudarstvom - Prezident," No. 46, 13-19 November 2000.

15-16 March 2000

ELEVEN SU-24 BOMBERS DELIVERED TO CRIMEA, SECOND GROUP MAY FOLLOW

At a meeting in Kyiv held on 15 and 16 March between Oleksandr Byelov, the deputy secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, and Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov, the commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, the Ukrainian-Russian commission in charge of the Russian Black Sea Fleet (BSF) presence in Ukraine agreed to several proposals which may clear the way for the delivery to Crimea of 11 Su-24 fighter-bombers [NATO name 'Fencer-D'], the second such group to be sent to Ukraine. Since 19 January 2000, 11 Su-24 bombers, meant to replace older Su-17s [NATO name 'Fitter'], have been delivered to the Gvardeyskoye airbase near Sevastopol.

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Although the Su-24 is capable of carrying tactical nuclear weapons (TNWs), lieutenant-general Valeriy Yurin, commander of the BSF air force, stated that all equipment pertaining to TNWs had been removed from the aircraft and that the alterations were inspected by Ukrainian experts before the aircraft left Russia. A fourth session of the commission will meet in Moscow in the final quarter of 2000.

—Serhiy Zhurets, "Friendship one on one. Moscow and Kiev continue the negotiation battles around the Russian Fleet," *Den*, 16 March 2000, pp.1,3; in "Ukraine: Black Sea Fleet issue viewed," FBIS Document CEP20000320000254.; Raisa Stetsyura, *ITAR-TASS*, 16 March 2000; in "Ukraine allows transfer of Russian bombers to Crimea," FBIS Document CEP200003316000220.; Olha Tanasiychuk, "A Meeting on the Roadstead," *Kievskiy vedomosti*, 22 March 2000; in "Ukraine, Russia Praise Fleet Talks," FBIS Document CEP20000323000133.; *ITAR-TASS*, 19 January 2000; in "New Sukhoi Jets Fly to Russian Naval Base in Crimea," FBIS Document FTS20000119001822.; *ITAR-TASS*, 18 January 2000; in "Nuclear Equipment Removed from Russian Aircraft," FBIS Document FTS20000118001777.

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1999-1991

1 October 1999

UKRAINE OPPOSES PRESENCE OF RUSSIAN NUCLEAR-CAPABLE BOMBERS IN CRIMEA

Ukrainian government officials are concerned that allowing Su-24M [NATO name 'Fencer-D'] fighter-bombers, capable of carrying tactical nuclear weapons, in the Russian Black Sea Fleet may jeopardize its non-nuclear status. Russia wants to replace Su-17s [NATO name 'Fitter'] at the Russian Gvardeyskoye Air Base near Simferopol with 22 Su-24Ms. Russia had planned to begin the transfer of Su-24Ms from the Anapa naval base in Krasnodar Kray to the Crimean peninsula on 1 October 1999, at a rate of one plane per day. Ukrainian military officials demand the right to inspect the bombers for the presence of equipment that would allow the use of nuclear weapons. Ukrainian generals are reportedly convinced that the Black Sea Fleet had tactical nuclear weapons in its arsenal until 1991, and that the fleet continues to drill in the use of such weapons. Ukrainian government officials call for an international agreement that would address fleet and air unit verification issues. Such an agreement exists for Russian conventional weapons present in the Crimea. Russian officials have argued that Russia should be allowed to deploy the bombers without delay, saying that the bombers have been stripped of the equipment used to carry and launch nuclear weapons. Aleksandr Pikayev, a military analyst at the Moscow Carnegie Center, pointed out that inspections of military units stationed abroad runs counter to international practice and therefore should not be required of Russia. The bomber dispute is not the first incident involving inspections of Russia's Black Sea Fleet equipment. In May 1999, Russia compelled Ukraine to rescind Government Decree No. 863, which subjected Russian servicemen's baggage, weapons, and hardware to inspections, a common international practice.

—Simon Saradzhyan, "Ukraine Stalls Su-24M Aircraft for Black Sea Fleet," *Defense News*, 18 October 1999, p. 32.; Viktor Yadukha, *Segodnya*, 30 September 1999, p. 2; in *WPS Defense and Security*, 4 October 1999; in "Leonid Kuchma Gives Wings to the Black Sea Fleet," *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe*, web.lexis-nexis.com/universe.; Serhiy Chornous, "'Sukhoys' with Nuclear Overtones," *Ukrayina Moloda*, 14 October 1999, p. 3; in "Bomber Transfer Seen

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Threat to Non-Nuclear Status," FBIS Document CEP19991019000015.; UNIAN, 8 October 1999; in "Udoenko Opposes Russian Bombers in Crimea," FBIS Document FTS19991008001385.

4 September 1999

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE VITRENKO PROMISES TO RESTORE UKRAINE'S NUCLEAR STATUS

Left wing presidential candidate Nataliya Vitrenko announced that if she wins the 1999 presidential elections, she will renounce Ukraine's non-nuclear weapon state status, and create a strategic partnership with Russia and Belarus as a defense against NATO.

—"V sluchaye pobedy na prezidentskikh vyborakh N. Vitrenko planiruyet vosstanovit yadernyy status Ukrainy," UNIAN, 30 August - 5 September 1999, No. 35.

24 March 1999

UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR NON-NUCLEAR STATUS REVISION

Reacting to NATO's air strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada adopted a resolution, the fourth clause of which states "The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall submit to the Supreme Council a draft law on cancelling the decisions and renouncing Ukraine's obligations concerning its non-nuclear status." Over 66 percent of the deputies approved the resolution. In response, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma stated that Ukraine is not able to independently maintain nuclear weapons. He stressed that this was the key factor influencing the decision to give up its nuclear weapons and that it is impossible to "turn back." Ukrainian Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk responded to this development by stating that Ukraine has to observe international agreements on its non-nuclear status. According to Tarasyuk and Kuchma's press secretary, the deputies' decision was emotional. Ukraine's non-nuclear status is codified in Ukraine's constitution and is further re-affirmed in the declaration "On the State Sovereignty of Ukraine" adopted in 1990. Since then, Ukraine has re-confirmed its status as a non-nuclear weapon state in numerous documents.

—"Zayavleniye press-sluzhby Verkhovnoy rady Ukrainy," Estonskoye Agentstvo Novostey ETA, 25 March 1999; in Natsionalnaya sluzhba novostey, <http://nel.nns.ru>.; "V Kieve zatoskovali o yadernoy bombe," Vremya MN, www.mosinfo.ru:8080, 25 March 1999.; UNIAN, 29 March 1999; in "Ukraine Cannot Maintain Nuclear Weapons "Independently" - Kuchma," Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, web.lexis-nexis.com.; UNIAN, 25 March 1999; in "Tarasyuk: Ukraine Must Adhere to Non-Nuclear Status," FBIS Document FTS19990330000936.; "Parlament prinyal resheniye ob otmene bezyadernogo statusa," Ekonomicheskoye obozreniye Logos Press, 29 March 1999; Natsionalnaya sluzhba novostey, <http://nel.nns.ru>.

20 January 1999

UKRAINE PLANS TO CREATE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY

A threat reduction agency modelled after the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency is scheduled to open in Ukraine in March 1999.

—Greg Seigle, "Ukraine Aims to Mirror US Threat Reduction," Jane's Defence Weekly, 20 January 1999, p. 6.

March 1998

UKRAINIAN OFFICIAL CLAIMS RUSSIA WILL EQUIP BLACK SEA FLEET WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Serhey Terekhin, a Verkhovna Rada deputy and chairman of the "Reforms and Order" party's economic council,

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claimed at a press conference that there is a possibility that Russia will deploy tactical nuclear weapons on its ships based in the Crimea. Terekhin, who based his allegation on secret documents, claimed that the deployment would occur in the next few months. According to Terekhin, the Russian General Staff sent a secret directive to Viktor Kravchenko, commander of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, instructing him to "carry out a range of preparatory measures for the...Fleet's acceptance of so-called special products." Terekhin, who is convinced that these 'special products' are nuclear warheads, went on to claim that the devices would be sent from a Novorossiysk storage facility to the Russian fleet's ships based in Sevastopol. The 'special products' would be deployed on the missile cruisers Admiral Holovko and Moskva, by means of loading nuclear charges on Bazalt (NATO designation SS-N-12 "Sandbox") ship-launched cruise missile systems. Terekhin based his allegations on several other secret documents as well, including a study commissioned by the Russian Defense Council, entitled "The Place and Role of Modern Tactical Weapons Systems in Resolving the Russian Federation Armed Forces' Strategic Tasks." According to Terekhin, the report concludes that "strengthening the strike capability of the fleet forces based in the Black Sea-Mediterranean Sea region by means of nuclear missile systems of an operational-tactical class corresponds to the task of deterrence." In addition, Terekhin had access to the classified text of the Program of Economic Cooperation of Russia and Ukraine for 1998-2007, which he claimed supported his allegation. In the final version of the agreement, a previously included section on environmental security at Black Sea Fleet bases had been removed. Terekhin believes that the section disappeared due to guidelines reportedly set forth by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which state that territories where nuclear arms are located are declared to be environmentally hazardous. In Terekhin's view, Ukrainian leaders "know about Russia's nuclear plans." Responding to these allegations, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Tarasov denied that "tactical nuclear missiles may be deployed aboard ships of the Black Sea Fleet stationed in the Crimean Peninsula." Tarasov stated that Russia "strictly adheres to the agreements reached by the Russian and Ukrainian Presidents with regard to Ukraine's nuclear-free status." The commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, Vladimir Kuroyedov, also denied that the fleet is armed with nuclear weapons, but said that both the Ukrainian and Russian Black Sea Fleets are equipped with ships, aircraft, and delivery systems which can handle nuclear weapons if required. While "the delivery capabilities exist," Kuroyedov added that "these navies are not facing such tasks at the moment."

—Viktor Lugovik and Viktor Yadukha, "Rossiya gotova razmestit v Sevastopole yadernoye oruzhiye," *Segodnya*, 28 March 1998, p. 3.; Unian, 25 March 1998; in "Ukrainian Official Says Russia to Deploy Warheads in Crimea," FBIS-TAC-98-084.; RIA-Novosti Hotline, 26 March 1998, Issue 058.; Anatoliy Skychko, "This is Just What We Need— Russian Nuclear Warheads," *Vseukrainskiye vedomosti*, 26 March 1998, p. 7; in "Nuclear Plans Threat to Russia," FBIS-SOV-98-100, 10 April 1998.; RIA (Interfax), 31 March 1998; in "Russia Denies Arming of Black Sea Fleet with Nuclear Arms," FBIS-SOV-98-090.; Interfax, 9 April 1998; in "Russian Navy Official: No Nuclear Arms in Black Sea Fleet," FBIS-UMA-98-099.; Press-tsentri MID Rossii, "Zapis brifinga direktora departamenta informatsii i pechati MID RF G. P. Tarasova," 31 March 1998.

7 April 1997

DEPUTY CLAIMS UKRAINE IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING ITS OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The chairman of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada Defense and National Security Commission, Volodymyr Mukhin, stated that "the scientific and industrial potential of Ukraine will allow for the production of our own nuclear weapons." Mukhin emphasized that the removal of tactical nuclear weapons to Russia had been a mistake, and expressed

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doubts regarding whether the US would pay \$700 million dollars promised in compensation for Ukraine's nuclear weapons.

—"Ukraina sposobna sozdat svoye yadernoye oruzhiye," *Delovoy mir*, 3 April 1997, p. 2.

19 April 1996

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT AT G-7 NUCLEAR SUMMIT

4/19/96-4/20/96 a summit on nuclear safety took place in Moscow with the participation of the G-7 leaders and the Russian and Ukrainian presidents. President Kuchma called on the participants in the summit to cooperate under the auspices of the International Scientific-Research Center for the study the effects of the persistent radiation on flora and fauna in the unique conditions of the Chornobyl zone.

—"Yaderna bezpeka i ne tilky" under the rubric "Moskovsky samit velykoi simky," *Politika i chas*, 6/96, pp. 82-83.

January 1996

TWENTY TU-22M3 BOMBERS WILL BE DEPLOYED IN POLTAVA

In the last week of January 1996 four TU-22M3 (NATO designation: Tu-26 Backfire) missile-carrying bombers arrived in Poltava. The bombers were transferred to Ukraine as part of the process of dividing the Black Sea Fleet. Colonel Vasyl Kukulenko, deputy commander of a bomber division, told a SOTSIUM correspondent that 20 aircraft of this class will comprise a regiment to be deployed in Poltava.

—Vitaliy Tsebriy, "We Have Strategic Bombers, But Their Strategic Task Remains a Military Secret," *Kyivskiyeh vedomosti*, 1/31/96, in "Ukraine: National Affairs," FBIS-SOV-96-023, 1/31/96.

20 November 1995

RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN DEFENSE MINISTERS AGREED TO JOINTLY FINANCE A BALLISTIC MISSILE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Ukrainian and Russian Defense Ministers, Pavel Grachev and Valeriy Shmarov, agreed on a plan to jointly finance a ballistic missile early warning system (BMEWS) using a former Soviet radar in Ukraine. (This radar is undoubtedly the missile warning radar based at Mukhacheve.) The two sides disagreed on an air defense system for other Soviet states.)

—"In Russia," *Post-Soviet Nuclear and Defense Monitor*, 11/30/95, p. 11.

18 January 1994

UKRAINE IS CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY GUARANTEES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELIMINATING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Anatoliy Plyushko, Ukrainian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, and Dai Bingq, PRC Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed a declaration that addressed Ukraine's concern for security guarantees and financial assistance for eliminating nuclear weapons on its territory.

—Kyiv Radio Ukraine World Service, 1/18/94; in "Ukraine, PRC Envoys Discuss Nuclear Disarmament," FBIS-SOV-94-014, 1/21/94, p. 41.

14 January 1994

UNITED STATES WILL BUY 500 TONS OF HEU REMOVED FROM RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN WARHEADS

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The United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) and Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhailov signed an \$11.9 billion deal in which the United States will buy 500 tons of HEU removed from Russian and Ukrainian warheads. Russia will blend down the HEU into LEU prior to delivery in the United States, where it will be used to fuel nuclear reactors. Each year for the next five years, the United States will purchase ten tons of uranium. After that, the United States will buy 30 tons of HEU (equivalent to 930 tons of LEU) per year.

—"US Signs Contract for Purchase of Enriched Uranium from Former Soviet Stockpile," USCEA Infowire, 1/14/94.

14 January 1994

PRESIDENTS OF UKRAINE, RUSSIA, UNITED STATES SIGN TRILATERAL STATEMENT

During a 14 January meeting in Moscow, Presidents William J. Clinton, Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk reviewed the progress that has been made in reducing nuclear forces in their countries. The partners signed the Trilateral Statement, which spelled out U.S. and Russian guarantees to Ukraine as it moved forward with denuclearization.

6 October 1993

RUSSIAN MFA BLAMES UKRAINE FOR DISRUPTING SERVICING AND STORAGE SCHEDULE FOR NUCLEAR WARHEADS

Georgiy Karasin, the Director of the Information and Press Department at the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, blamed Ukraine for the disruptions to the servicing and storage schedule for the nuclear warheads. In the case of the storage facility at Pervomaysk, Karasin stated that six to eight times the allowable number of warheads are being stored together. Karasin advocated that all the warheads that have been taken off-line should be transported to Russia immediately. A Ukrainian representative stated that, according to the commission that Russia sent to Ukraine to assess the situation, there was no cause for alarm.[1] He added that any disruptions to the servicing schedule were caused by the Russian Ministry of Defense. Another report cited the Russian commission as stating that the situation in the storage facility was intolerable and that an emergency situation could occur; the commission was comprised of experts from Minatom, the Ministry of Defense, and the State Committee for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and the Elimination of Natural Disasters.

— Ihor Zabilyk, *Holos Ukrainy*, 10/7/93, p. 5; in "Defense Official: 'No Grounds for Alarm' Over Nuclear Storage Sites," JPRS-TND-93-034, 10/27/93, p. 39. Valeriy Ivanov, *Komsomolskaya pravda*, 10/7/93, p. 1, in JPRS-TND-93-034, 10/27/93, p. 40.

September 1993

RUSSIA ANNULS MASSANDRA SUMMIT'S PROTOCOL

Russia reportedly annulled a protocol signed by Ukraine and Russia at the Massandra Summit, which stated that all nuclear weapons of the Strategic Nuclear Forces stationed in Ukraine would be withdrawn to Russia not more than 24 months after Ukraine has ratified the START I Treaty.[1] Russia claimed that Ukraine added an amendment stating that only those warheads removed from the launchers to be destroyed under the START I Treaty are included in this latest agreement; this excludes the SS-24 ICBMs.[2] Ukraine maintains that the amendment was added before the protocol was signed.

—Pavel Shinkarenko, "The Truth About Nuclear Weapons. Russia Denounced Protocol on The Withdrawal of All Nuclear Warheads from Ukraine," *Rossiyskiye vesti*, 9/22/93, p. 1.; "Russia Annuls Protocol on Nuclear Weapons," *RFE/RL NEWS BRIEFS*, 9/20/93, p. 8.

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26 July 1993

UKRAINE MIGHT JOIN NPT AS TRANSITIONAL COUNTRY

Ukrainian Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov hinted that Ukraine might join the NPT as a transitional country that inherited nuclear weapons but will eliminate them.

—John Lepingwell, "Russia, Ukraine, and Nuclear Weapons Supplementary Chronology," RFE/RL RESEARCH REPORT, 1/28/94, Vol. 3, No. 4, p. 23.

2 July 1993

ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE UKRAINIAN TERRITORY BELONG TO UKRAINE

Ukrainian Parliament passed a new defense doctrine that stated that all nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory belong to Ukraine. It also declared that Ukraine is committed to becoming a non-nuclear state in the future.

—John Lepingwell, "Ukraine's Position Hardens Despite Some Positive Signs," Arms Control Today, 9/93, p. 25.

3 June 1993

PRIME-MINISTER KUCHMA DEMANDS COMPENSATION FOR DISARMAMENT

Prime Minister Kuchma is said to support demanding compensation for disarmament while temporarily declaring Ukraine a nuclear state.

—John Lepingwell, "Ukraine, Russia, and Nuclear Weapons Supplementary Chronology," RFE/RL RESEARCH REPORT, 1/28/94, Vol. 3, No. 4, p. 22.

9 May 1993

UNITED STATES WILL ADD TO \$175 MILLION ALREADY OFFERED FOR DISARMAMENT

US Ambassador-at-Large Strobe Talbott arrived in Kyiv to discuss a new American policy toward Ukrainian disarmament that would emphasize cooperation rather than pressure. Talbott insinuated that, upon START I ratification, the United States would add to the roughly \$175 million already offered in assistance for disarmament.

—Nuclear Fuel, 1/17/93, pp. 16-17.

10 April 1993

DISMANTLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN MAINTAINING THEM

Yuriy Kostenko stated that studies show it would be more expensive to dismantle the nuclear weapons than to maintain them.

—John Lepingwell, "Ukraine, Russia, and Nuclear Weapons Supplementary Chronology," RFE/RL RESEARCH REPORT, 1/28/94, Vol. 3, No. 4, p. 21.

April 1993

NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL REMAIN ON UKRAINIAN SOIL

Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov announced that the 43rd Strategic Missile Forces Army will pledge allegiance to Ukraine. Morozov also stressed that, regardless of the decision to be made by the Supreme Rada, the nuclear weapons in Ukraine would remain on the nation's soil for years to come.

—"Ekho" Radio Program, 4/10/93, in Russia and CIS Today, 4/13/93, p. 28.

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25 March 1993

UKRAINE'S INTENTION TO BECOME A NON-NUCLEAR STATE WILL NOT BE ALTERED BY EVENTS IN RUSSIA

It was reported that Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko said that the current political crisis in Russia had undermined support in Ukraine for eliminating nuclear weapons on its territory.[1] Although the government remains committed to approving the NPT, he indicated that there was growing parliamentary opposition to the treaty. The following day, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said that Ukraine's intention to become a non-nuclear state could not be altered by events in Russia.

—Washington Post, 3/25/93, "Ukraine is Loath to Yield Nuclear Arms."; "Kravchuk Says Ukraine's Nuclear Status Unchanged," Reuters, 3/25/93.

March 1993

IT IS NOT OBLIGATORY FOR UKRAINE TO BE A NON-NUCLEAR STATE

Bohdan M. Horyn, Deputy Chairman of the Rada's Foreign Affairs Committee and the Military Affairs Committee said that Ukraine "has the right to decide to be a nuclear or a non-nuclear State" and that commitments to become non-nuclear "were voiced as intentions, not obligations."

—Steven Erlanger, "Ukraine and Arms Accords: Kyiv Reluctant to Say, 'I Do,'" New York Times, 3/31/93.

11 February 1993

UKRAINE WILL CUT NUCLEAR ARSENAL IN PROPORTION TO RUSSIAN CUTS

It was reported that Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the Ukrainian Rukh (Movement) Party, said that Ukraine should cut its nuclear arsenal in proportion to the cuts made by Russia and the United States.

—Kyivskiye vedomosti, 2/11/93, p. 3.

6 February 1993

GREEN PARTY IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING DISARMAMENT

INTERFAX reported that the only political organization in Ukraine to support total nuclear disarmament is the 'Green' party.

—Kyivskiye vedomosti, 2/11/93, p. 3.

30 January 1993

OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER UKRAINIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS CEDED TO CIS JOINT STRATEGIC FORCES COMMAND

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk stated that the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory belong to Ukraine, but operational control over them has been ceded to the CIS Joint Strategic Forces Command.

—Rossiyskiye vesti, 4/14/93, p. 7. For a discussion of the technical barriers to Ukrainian control over the nuclear weapons on its territory see Virginia Foran, "Ukraine's Creeping Nuclear Possession," NNN BULLETIN, 5/30/93.

5 November 1992

UKRAINE IS SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GIVING UP NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Yukhnovskiy reportedly said his country should seek compensation from the world's nuclear powers for giving up warheads containing fissile material. His view was echoed by Prime

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Minister Leonid Kuchma who stated that Ukraine had the right to expect more financial assistance from the West in exchange for giving up its nuclear weapons.

—"Ukraine to Seek Compensation for Nuclear Warheads," Reuters, 11/5/92.

November 1992

UKRAINE WILL BECOME NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE BUT NOT BY SELLING NUCLEAR WARHEADS

According to First Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Yuhnovsky, Ukraine will try to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone by selling off its nuclear weapons to the highest bidder. However, one week later Ukrainian Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov stressed to a visiting NATO delegation that Ukraine does not intend to sell nuclear warheads to anyone.

—China Radio International (Beijing), 11/11/92, in "Ukraine's Willingness to Sell Nukes Noted," JPRS-TND-92-044, 11/24/92, p. 4; and ITAR-TASS (Moscow), 11/17/92, in "Ukraine Stresses No Sale of Nuclear Weapons." JPRS-TND-92-044, 11/24/92, p. 27.

29 December 1991

LEADERS OF FOUR REPUBLICS AGREED TO JOINT CONTROL OVER NUCLEAR ARSENALS

The leaders of Kazakhstan, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine issued the Almaty Declaration on Strategic Forces in which they agree to joint control over nuclear arsenals of the former Soviet Union.

—Kazakh fact sheet to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 6/95, p.1.

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