

## FACT SHEETS: Issues discussed in U.S.-Ukraine meetings

The following fact sheets were released by the White House Office of the Press Secretary.

### Chornobyl closure

President Kuchma's announcement today that Ukraine will close the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant by December 15, 2000, represents a major milestone for Ukraine, as well as the United States and other G-7 nations, which have led the international effort to close the plant. Ukraine's actions will improve nuclear safety for the people of this important nation and will give a greater sense of security for all neighboring nations, which have lived too long in the shadow of the world's worst civilian nuclear accident.

In response to today's closure announcement, President Clinton today pledged additional assistance of \$78 million from the United States for the Chornobyl sarcophagus project, which will reconstruct and stabilize the structure that covers the ruined reactor No. 4 at the Chornobyl plant.

In addition, the United States will fund a business incubator for the neighboring town of Slavutych in recognition of the economic impact that closure of the nuclear facility will have on the local population. The U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Ministry of Labor, has also committed to a project to address the needs of workers displaced by Chornobyl's closure. Moreover, the Department of Energy will be providing an additional \$2 million in nuclear safety assistance, part of which will be used to help with the safe shutdown of Chornobyl.

The United States will work with Ukraine and the G-7 to obtain the remaining funds needed to complete the sarcophagus project at the second Chornobyl sarcophagus pledging conference, to be held on July 6 in Berlin.

In 1995 the United States, the other G-7 countries and Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding on closure of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant. Since 1995 the G-7 and Ukraine have worked together to mobilize nearly \$2 billion in international financial institutions energy sector loans to help Ukraine develop a more reliable and stable energy sector. The G-7 have provided nearly \$1 billion in grant funds for Chornobyl site safety projects, for decommissioning facilities and to repair the Chornobyl sarcophagus.

To date, the United States has provided over \$200

11 Safety Parameter Display Systems in Ukraine's most modern nuclear power plants, the VVER-1000s. These systems provide nuclear power plant operators with rapid access to hundreds of signals from operational and safety systems so that the operators can quickly and efficiently deal with accident situations. Lack of a system of this kind was a factor in the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in 1979. These systems are manufactured by a joint venture, Westron, between Westinghouse Electric company in the United States and Khartron in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Under this new initiative, Westron will develop the capability to repair printed circuit boards and system components and maintain an in-country stock of complex electronic boards to provide quickly for the repair needs of Safety Parameter Display Systems quickly. Other activities include providing fire safety equipment at additional nuclear power plants.

### Small and medium enterprise development

President Clinton announced today plans to establish a multi-million-dollar micro-enterprise credit program for Ukraine, modeled after the successful Fundusz Mikro program in Poland and a new, five-year, \$25 million program called BIZPRO to support the development of small and medium-sized private businesses, a key to sustainable economic growth in Ukraine.

Micro-enterprise credit program: The United States, the Polish Fundusz Mikro and Ukraine will work together on this initiative to address a major constraint to economic growth in Ukraine – a severe lack of credit resources for small business ventures. The government of Ukraine has agreed to provide the necessary legal and regulatory environment to create this program and ensure its success.

More than 3 million Ukrainians are involved in small and micro-businesses. Many lack business experience, reside in rural areas and were formerly engaged in agricultural activities. They have been deprived of opportunities to engage in business due in part to a lack of access to credit, training and business support services available in cities.

President Clinton is a longtime strong supporter of

enhancing the policy environment for small business growth; and increasing access to financial services for small businesses. Over the past five years, U.S. assistance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has resulted in the development of 15 business service centers and three business incubators throughout Ukraine to transfer skills and information on operating a business in a market economy, reaching over 30,000 SME clients in Ukraine, over 35 percent of whom were women.

BIZPRO will focus on the broader business service industry, including business centers, trade and professional associations, consultants, research and information services, and financial services. The BIZPRO program will provide support for policy and regulatory reform, including work with regional and local level officials and business associations to improve the environment for SMEs in Ukraine. BIZPRO will also focus on the expansion of micro-finance options through non-government finance organizations. This work will build on U.S. assistance programs that have supported the development of 11 model credit unions in Ukraine.

### Combating trafficking in human beings

The governments of the United States and Ukraine will co-sponsor a workshop on combating trafficking in women and children for international law enforcement officials from June 21-23, in Kyiv. Officials from key destination countries (Turkey, Israel, Germany, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands) and transit countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Albania, Hungary, Romania, Moldova) will coordinate approaches and discuss solutions with their Ukrainian hosts for combating trafficking in human beings.

International organizations invited include the European Union, United Nations, OSCE, ILO and International Organization on Migration. The United States and Ukraine have worked together on a comprehensive anti-trafficking effort since 1997. The United States has dedicated more than \$5 million for initiatives to advance shared goals of prevention of trafficking; protection of and assistance for victims; and prosecution of traffickers.