



success stories about international companies and enterprises who have joined with their Ukrainian counterparts to make profitable ventures.

Canada is in an excellent position to take advantage of the immense opportunities of the vast Ukrainian market. Canada's multicultural communities, particularly the more than one million Canadians of Ukrainian ancestry, can contribute not only their professional skills, but also their linguistic capabilities and cultural understanding, making Canada the choice partner in the region. Add to this Canada's courageous and farsighted foreign policy initiative to become the first Western country to recognize the independence of Ukraine, and one has the proper components for a strong partnership.

I invite Canadians to get acquainted with the great potential of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people through the pages of this Monitor and encourage all parties doing business in Ukraine to utilize and support the services of the «Ukraine-Canada Policy and Trade Centre».

With best wishes of good health, happiness and peace.

Levko Lukianenko
Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada

HOW TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*Statement by the
President of Ukraine Leonid M. Kravchuk*

The problem of proliferation of nuclear weapons remains one of the sharpest problems of our time, one that arouses concerns among statesmen as well as the broad world community. The question is in the centre of attention of Ukraine's political leadership, its Parliament. The possibility of an increase in the number of nuclear states and a corresponding increase in the risk of use nuclear weapons or its use in regional conflicts constitutes a real threat to international peace and security.

The only document that today is at the disposal of the international community in its efforts aimed at preventing this threat is the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). A special responsibility for the universal adherence to the provisions of the NPT rests on nuclear states and particularly on the depositors of the Treaty.

Recognizing the significance of this international document, bearing in mind that accession to it meets Ukraine's interests, I have submitted to the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) a proposal regarding Ukraine's accession to the Treaty. At the same time, proposals on ratification of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and of the relevant Lisbon Protocol were submitted for consideration by Ukraine's Parliament.

At the present time, intensive hearings are underway on this issue at the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) within the framework of Parliamentary Commissions and of a special Working Group. This is a normal process, which requires certain time.

The Parliament of Ukraine carries great responsibility before its people to ensure that all aspects of the START Treaty, the Lisbon Protocol and the NPT are carefully studied, that all possible implications of Ukraine's participation in these international documents are assessed, first in terms of its military and ecological security as well as in terms of financial costs arising from the assumption of such responsibilities. After all, the issue is not a reduction of nuclear arms by one half or two thirds, but a total elimination of such arms in Ukraine, an act which will have serious consequences from the viewpoint of our security and even the very existence of an independent Ukrainian state.

A large majority of deputies supported Ukraine's non-nuclear choice announced by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) in 1990. However, at the same time the deputies insist on the resolution of certain important questions before the START and the NPT Treaties are submitted for final parliamentary ratification.

At issue is the granting of security guarantees to Ukraine by the nuclear powers - the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the provision of realistic assistance to Ukraine in financing a nuclear weapons elimination program in Ukraine, the designation of the future use of nuclear components of the strategic and tactical warheads located in Ukraine or those that were earlier removed from its territory for dismantling in Russia.