



HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT KUCHMA'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

Washington... President Bill Clinton and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma concluded formal talks in Washington on November 22, 1994, capped with a series of agreements leading to closer cooperation on issues of economic reform, denuclearization and aerospace. Clinton told a nationally televised news conference that he very much enjoyed "getting to know" the Ukrainian leader and praised his leadership in winning support from Ukraine's Parliament to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to dismantle its nuclear arsenal. Clinton pledged some \$900 million in aid for Ukraine. He said Ukraine's decision will permit the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom to extend formal security assurances to Ukraine which took place during the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Budapest on December 5. Clinton also praised Ukraine's decision to join the Partnership for Peace, an arm of NATO, and promised to help defray some of Ukraine's costs of joint military training.

The economic reforms Kuchma initiated "put Ukraine on the right path toward a future of increasing prosperity and economic integration with the Western market economies," Clinton said. "At this moment in our history we have an extraordinary opportunity to improve the lives of all of our people by working more closely together and trading together more," he declared. "Since his election just five months ago, President Kuchma has bravely and squarely confronted

the two greatest challenges facing Ukraine -- economic reform and the nuclear question,"

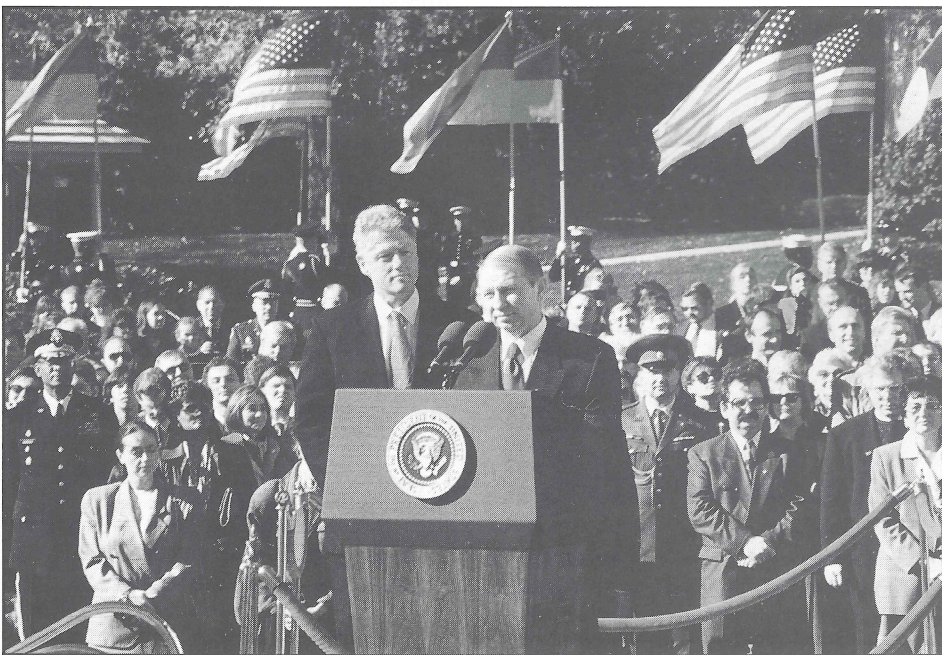
Clinton said, Ukraine "has reclaimed its independence and its place as a pivotal state



Clinton said. "He has taken hard, practical steps required to secure a more peaceful and prosperous future for his people." In welcoming ceremonies on the south lawn, Clinton told the Ukrainian leader, "We congratulate you and all Ukrainians for your remarkable achievement in regaining your freedom. America will stand with you to support your territorial independence and your reforms." After enduring "dictators and famine" to create an independent nation,

in Europe. The opportunities for both our countries will multiply."

In the evening, Clinton and his wife Hillary hosted a state dinner in honour of Kuchma and his wife. The guest list was studded with members of the cabinet, Congress and Americans of Ukrainian heritage. There was also the customary smattering of guests from the entertainment world: singer Michael Bolton (whose grandparents are from Kyiv), Kathleen Turner and Ukrainian-American actor Jack Palance. In his dinner remarks, Kuchma invited the Clintons to visit Ukraine in the near future. ■



PHOTOS: K. LEW/UKRAINIAN WEEKLY