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Remarks on signing a Ukraine-United States joint statement in Kiev, Ukraine
William J Clinton

June 5, 2000

Thank you very much. Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, leaders of
the government, leaders and Members of the Rada, leaders of the
court, distinguished citizens. I am delighted to be back in Ukraine,
and delighted to be again with President Kuchma to work on our
strategic partnership, because the success of Ukraine as a free and
prosperous nation is very important to the United States.

Of course, succeeding in the future requires learning from the
past. I am very proud and moved to be here today—this is World
Environment Day—for this historic announcement by President Kuchma
that the final reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will be
shut down and the entire plant closed forever on December the 15th.
This is a hopeful moment. It is also a moment when we remember those
who suffered as a result of the accident there.

The President and I agreed that we can grow our economies and
protect the environment and public health at the same time, and so
we must. I am pleased to announce that the United States will pledge
$78 million for the Chernobyl Shelter Fund to contain radiation from
the destroyed reactor, and another $2 million to expand efforts to
improve safety at Ukraine's other nuclear power plants.

The President and I also discussed his plan for economic reform. He
and his team have an economic plan that can put Ukraine on a path
towards sustainable growth and much higher living standards.
President Kuchma has moved to give his people their own land, to
reduce government bureaucracy, to promote entrepreneurship. He has
taken recent steps to enhance Ukraine's protection of intellectual
property rights and the rule of law. And these things improve the
climate for investment in Ukraine and will attract more investment
dollars from the United States and other places across the world.

In that spirit, I am pleased to announce a new 5-year, $25-million
business development program for small- and medium-sized businesses
in Ukraine to help them participate in the growing economy.

Finally, I want to take another important step today. Because of
Ukraine's strong efforts to prevent missile proliferation, I am
announcing our decision to eliminate commercial space quotas and
open the door to expanded U.S. cooperation with Ukraine's space
program. This decision will have a positive, long-term impact on
Ukraine's economic prospects, creating more high-tech jobs and
positioning Ukraine to be a leader in a cutting-edge area of 21st
century commerce. It will also enhance the ability of American
companies to compete in space. This represents the kind of
high-level partnership our countries can look forward to as we enter
the new century together.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. It's been a good day.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:20 p.m. in the White Room at Mariinskiy Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine.