

June 23, 1992

**Letter from US President G. H. W. Bush to Ukrainian
President L. Kravchuk**

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Summary:

Bush addresses Ukraine's security concerns following its commitment on May 24 in Lisbon to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a nonnuclear state.

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Dear Mr. President:

On May 23 in Lisbon, five nations signed a protocol which opened the way for all five to ratify and become parties to the START Treaty. This historic accomplishment recognizes the essential role of Ukraine in fulfilling the obligations of the former Soviet Union under the Treaty. Implementation of the START Treaty will enhance stability by substantially reducing nuclear weapons and strategic offensive arms and by laying a foundation for further reductions. The United States looks forward to working with Ukraine as a full and equal partner in implementing the Treaty and reducing the burden of nuclear weapons that are a legacy of the former Soviet Union.

As part of this agreement, Ukraine will adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the shortest possible time. This is an important step along the path laid out in the statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the non-nuclear status of Ukraine. When the Non-Proliferation Treaty was negotiated in 1968 the United States formally declared its intention to seek immediate action in the United Nations Security Council to provide assistance to any non-nuclear weapons state party that is the object of aggression or threats of aggression in which nuclear weapons are used. Mr. President, let me formally state that the United States stands by that commitment to Ukraine.

The United States shares the desire of the other parties to START for security and stability in the region. Implementation of the START reductions in strategic offensive arms will make a major contribution to the security and stability we all seek. In addition, in the new European security environment the security of Ukraine and other independent state is enhanced through participation in international organizations and structures, particularly the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, and the United Nations. The United States strongly supports the membership of Ukraine in all these organizations, which establish principles and norms that serve as a deterrent to irresponsible or threatening behavior. Adherence to these principles, including the inviolability of borders and the requirement that any change be carried out through peaceful means, will help assure the security of all states.

The most important factors in the security of Ukraine are continued democratic political reform, economic reform and investment, and respect for the internationally recognized principles embodied in CSCE, NACC, and the UN. Ukraine's active participation in these organizations is essential. The Armed Forces of Ukraine also have a fundamental role in Ukraine's security. We are ready to work with the Government of Ukraine in the development of armed forces whose size, equipment, and doctrine contribute to the security of Ukraine and stability in the region.

The United States welcomes the emergence of a democratic and independent Ukraine, and looks forward to a close and mutually beneficial relationship.

Sincerely,

/s/George Bush

His Excellency

Leonid Kravchuk

President of Ukraine