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OUELLET WELCOMES UKRAINIAN DECISION TO ACCEDE TO NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

Foreign Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the decision of the Ukrainian parliament, the Supreme Rada, to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state.

"Non-proliferation is a major objective of Canadian foreign policy and Ukraine's accession is a significant contribution to global peace and security. I look forward to Ukraine depositing the accession documents at the earliest opportunity," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Ukrainian Rada voted November 16, by a large majority, to accede to the NPT. The accession documents are to be deposited when Ukraine, the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Russia sign documents providing security guarantees in Budapest during the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) Summit December 5 and 6, 1994.

"President Kuchma has fulfilled his commitment to Prime Minister Chrétien during his State Visit to Canada that Ukraine would accede to the NPT without delay," said Mr. Ouellet. "This will open the door to further Canada-Ukraine nuclear co-operation."

Canada is already providing nuclear safety assistance to Ukraine in regulatory co-operation, spent fuel management and other areas. Accession to the NPT and conclusion of a bilateral Nuclear Co-operation Agreement will widen the scope of nuclear co-operation.

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