

## THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

### MR. LEONID KUCHMA

Leonid Kuchma was born on August 8, 1938, in the village of Chaikyne in the Chernihiv region of northern Ukraine.

In 1960, Mr. Kuchma graduated from the Department of Physics and Technology of the Dnipropetrovsk State University, where he earned a Ph.D., specializing in mechanical engineering.

After his graduation, Mr. Kuchma worked as an engineer at the Pivdenne Design Bureau, designing and constructing space rockets. He became first deputy General Designer of the Bureau. Later, he became the senior technical supervisor at Baikonur, the main spaceship launching site of the former Soviet Union.

From 1986 to 1992, Mr. Kuchma was General Director of the Dnipropetrovsk-based Pivdenmash, the biggest space technology corporation in the world.

During his career, Mr. Kuchma was bestowed with the highest States Prizes in Ukraine and the former Soviet Union and received numerous decorations and honorary titles.

Mr. Kuchma developed an interest for politics and was re-elected several times as a People's Deputy of Ukraine. From October 1992 to September 1993, he was Prime Minister of Ukraine. From December 1993 to July 1994, he was Head of the Ukrainian Union of Manufacturers and Employers. On July 10, 1994, he was elected President of Ukraine.

Mr. Kuchma is married and has a daughter. His wife, Ludmyla, is a former engineer.

October 1994