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CANADA ANNOUNCES NUCLEAR DISMANTLEMENT PACKAGE FOR UKRAINE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a \$15-million package of Canadian assistance to Ukraine to support nuclear dismantlement and enhanced nuclear safety. The package, announced during Mr. Ouellet's visit to Kiev, is part of Canada's contribution to Western assistance efforts to promote de-nuclearization and encourage Ukrainian accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Canada is committed to working closely with Ukraine to enhance international stability and security. This assistance package will help Ukraine de-nuclearize by making Canadian expertise available to address such urgent needs as nuclear waste management, environmental restoration and enhanced civilian nuclear-safety systems," said Mr. Ouellet.

In order to support the environmental assessment and clean-up of deactivated missile sites, and to monitor radiation and environmental contamination in areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster, the Canadian assistance package will provide Canadian technology and technical training. Other components of the package will assist in strengthening nuclear waste management capabilities in Ukraine. The Atomic Energy Control Board will co-operate with the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety to help develop a legislative and regulatory framework for the control of nuclear facilities. A range of defence conversion initiatives will also be supported under the package.

The nuclear dismantlement assistance package is part of Canada's ongoing program of technical assistance for Ukraine managed by the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The program is designed to support the transition to a market-based

economy, to promote democratic development and to increase Canadian trade and investment links with Ukraine. More than 60 projects have been approved to date in the priority sectors of environment, health, agriculture, private sector development and democratic development.

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